Daily Report

Central Eurasia

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

FBIS-SOV-96-014
Monday
22 January 1996

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-014 *22 January 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

CHECHEN AFFAIRS

Political Reaction

Russian Leaders Thank Turkey for Resolving Hostage Crisis *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Russian Premier Thanks Turkish Counterpart *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Yeltsin 'Not Satisfied' With Handling of Avrasya *[ITAR-TASS]* 1
Russia: Avrasya Passengers Safe, Depressed *[INTERFAX]* 2
Yeltsin: There Was 'No Alternative' in Pervomayskoye *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jan]* 2
Pervomayskoye Official Says Yeltsin's Staff 'Deceiving Him' *[Moscow NTV]* 2
Russia: News Conference on Chechnya Given by Kulikov, Barsukov *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Russia: Barsukov Details Pervomayskoye Casualties *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Barsukov on Bombing of Pervomayskoye *[Moscow Radio]* 4
Barsukov: Moscow, Yaroslavl Might Face Terrorist Acts *[INTERFAX]* 4
Kulikov: Raduyev May Have Fled With '20 to 30' Others *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Dudayev: Chechen Raduyev To Be Tried for Kizlyar Incident *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Chechen Raduyev Speaks on Dudayev's TV, Video Tapes Offered *[KOMMERSANT-DAILY 20 Jan]* 5
Chechen Head Zavgayev To Maintain 'Internal' Dialogue *[Moscow ORT]* 5
Chechen Roundtable Demands Russian Troop Withdrawal *[Moscow Radio]* 6
Chechen Nationalities Minister: Negotiations Will Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 6

Terrorist Activity

Russians Stay Aboard Ferry Avrasya After Terrorists Leave *[INTERFAX]* 6
Abducted Energy Workers Reportedly Found in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
Russia: Further on Missing Power Workers in Chechnya *[ITAR-TASS]* 7

Military Activity

Chechen Situation Reported as 'Tense' Despite Ramadan *[INTERFAX]* 7
Rebels Attack on Chechen Dam Unsuccessful *[ITAR-TASS]* 7
43 Dagestani Citizens Killed in Kizlyar, Pervomayskoye *[Moscow ORT]* 8
Russia's Barsukov, Kulikov on Pervomayskoye Operation *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 20 Jan]* 8
Chechen Rebel Raduyev Reported Alive, Uninjured *[Moscow NTV]* 9
Chechen Rebels Pledge To Release Dagestani Hostages *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
Russian Security Unaware of Hostage Release Plans *[Moscow Radio]* 9
Escaped Chechen 'Gunmen' Said To Be in Gudermes Region *[INTERFAX]* 10
Dagestan MVD Denies Discovery of Fighters in Pervomayskoye *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Chechen Guerrillas Say 60 Hostages Still Held *[AFP]* 10
Russia: Nine More Rebels Captured at Pervomayskoye *[INTERFAX]* 10
Russia: Reports From Pervomayskoye; No Fortifications Seen *[Moscow ORT]* 11
Pervomayskoye Troops Claim They Were 'Left Exposed' *[Moscow RTV]* 11
Chechen Leader Basayev's Location Discovered *[Radio Rossii]* 11
Troops Free Russian Serviceman Held by Chechen Militants *[INTERFAX]* 12
Russia: Interview on Why Nerve Gas Was Not Used in Dagestan *[MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS 20 Jan]* 12

Chechen Guerrilla Morale High After Year of War *[AFP]* 12
Russian General Talks of Mercenaries in Chechnya *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Jan]* 13

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin Holds News Conference at CIS Summit *[Moscow RTV]* 16
Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Discuss CIS Customs, Payment Unions *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
CIS: Lukashenka Condemns Kazakh Statement Denouncing Restoration of USSR *[INTERFAX]* 22
Lukashenka: Belarus Opposed Abkhazia Agreement at CIS Summit *[ITAR-TASS]* 23
Kuchma Puts Ukraine's National Interests First at CIS Summit *[UNIAN]* 23
Kuchma Evaluates CIS as 'Consultative Body' *[INTERFAX]* 23
CIS: Ukraine, Moldova, Russia Confirm Dniester's Status *[INTERFAX]* 24
CIS Leaders Approve Air Defense Concept *[INTERFAX]* 24
CIS Summit Approves Conflict Prevention, Settlement Guidelines *[INTERFAX]* 24
Kyrgyz President Satisfied With CIS Summit Results *[ITAR-TASS]* 25

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Yeltsin Comments on CIS Summit, Terrorism, Ukraine *[INTERFAX]* 26
Yeltsin To Boost Peace Efforts in Karabakh *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Yeltsin To Visit Ukraine To Sign 'Major' Treaty *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
Kazakh President on 'Impossibility' of Restoring USSR *[Moscow NTV]* 27
EU Document Outlines Future Policies Toward Russia *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 Jan]* 30
IZVESTIYA Reports Washington's 'Mixed Signals' to Russia *[20 Jan]* 30
Moscow Notes U.S. Secretary of States's Remarks *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
Commander of Russian IFOR Troops Interviewed *[TRUD 20 Jan]* 32
Russian IFOR Troop Dispute Raises 'Equality' Issue *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Jan]* 33
Yeltsin Signs Decree Levying Tax on Ukrainian Goods *[INTERFAX]* 34
New Russian Foreign Minister Primakov Profiled *[OGONEK Jan]* 34
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Questioned at Geneva Conference *[Radio Rossii]* 35
Visit to Japan by Top Russian Military Man Unlikely *[ITAR-TASS]* 35
Russia To Build Nuclear Power Plant in PRC's Liaoning *[INTERFAX]* 36

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yeltsin Says He Will 'Supposedly' Run for President *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Creation of Yeltsin Reelection Support Structure Under Way *[INTERFAX]* 37
OMON Said To Impede Activities of Yeltsin Action Committee *[INTERFAX]* 37
Yeltsin Dispells Rumours Surrounding Chubays' Dismissal *[ITAR-TASS]* 37
Russia: Luzhkov Urges Probe Into Chubays' Privatization Moves *[INTERFAX]* 38
Yeltsin Congratulates New Duma Speaker Seleznev *[INTERFAX]* 38
Yeltsin Meets With Federation Council Working Group *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Yeltsin Wants Former Communist To Head Federation Council *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Yeltsin Dismisses State Archives Head, Regional Envoy *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Yeltsin Returns Law on Insolvency of Banks to Duma *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Primakov Outlines His Foreign Policy Priorities for Russia *[OBSHCHAYA GAZETA 18-24 Jan]* 39
IZVESTIYA Criticizes Yeltsin's Mishandling of Hostage Crisis *[20 Jan]* 40
Chernomyrdin: Crisis Shows Talks With Dudayev 'Useless' *[INTERFAX]* 42
Chernomyrdin Hopes for Cooperation With New Duma *[INTERFAX]* 42
Daily Ponders Party Alignments in New Russian Duma *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Jan]* 43
TsIK Rules on Signatures To Support Russian Presidential Candidates *[INTERFAX]* 45
Gaydar Ready To Discuss Chernomyrdin's Presidential Candidacy *[Moscow 2x2 TV]* ... 46
Election Itself Seen More Important Than 'Who Sits in the Kremlin' *[TRUD 16 Jan]* ... 46

Russian FSB Spokesman Mikhaylov Fired *[Moscow Radio]* 48
Russia: Decree on State Conversion Fund Role, Leadership *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 Jan]* 49
Russia: Edict on Commission for Protecting State Secrets *[INTERFAX]* 50
Russia: Decree on Federation Council's Communications System *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 18 Jan]* 50

Media Issues

Russia: Program Accuses Television Management of Censorship *[Moscow Radio]* 50

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin To Open Russian Federation Council Session *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Russian Duma Disagrees on Pervomayskoye Debate *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Russian Duma Favors Ratification of Document on Abk[illegible] *[Moscow Radio]* 51
Chairmen of Russian State Duma Committees Announced *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Russian Duma Chairman Seleznev Interviewed *[Moscow NTV]* 52

Regional Affairs

Russia: Vandals Damage Monument in Vladikavkaz *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Vladikavkaz Explosion Caused by Firecrackers *[Moscow Radio]* 54
Russia: Ter-Petrosyan-Yeltsin Kremlin Meeting Reported *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 54
Yerevan: SNARK Details Aliyev Meeting With Shevardnadze 54
Blagoveshchensk Meeting Nominates Yeltsin for President *[INTERFAX]* 55
Yeltsin Reelection Committee Set Up in Stavropol *[ITAR-TASS]* 55
Moscow, St. Petersburg Residents Think Ministers Should Resign *[INTERFAX]* 55
Russia: Lifting of N. Ossetian State of Emergency Regretted *[Radio Rossii]* 55
Demonstrations Against Chechen War Staged in Kazan *[Moscow RTV]* 55
Russia: Mikhaylovka Mine in Kursk Region Deep in Debt *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Russia: High-Energy Source Center Constructed at Zelenograd *[Moscow RTV]* 56

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin To Adhere to Tough Financial Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 56
Chernomyrdin Assures Investors Following Chubays Departure *[ITAR-TASS]* 57
Yeltsin Approves Restructuring of Industrial Debt *[INTERFAX]* 57
Russian Budget Committee Chairman: Treasury 'Completely Empty' *[Moscow Radio]* 57

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Ukrainian Deputy on Moroz's Refusal To Meet Perry *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 6 Jan]* 58
Ukraine's Foreign Minister on Outcome of CIS Summit *[Kiev International]* 58
Kuchma on Moscow Mayor's Presidential Ambitions *[INTERFAX]* 59
Primakov Visit to Kiev Agreed During Talks With Udovenko *[MOLOD UKRAYINY 18 Jan]* 59
Ukrainian Official Discusses Relations With Russia *[DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA 18 Jan]* 59
Ukraine's Kostenko Discusses Nuclear Cooperation in Prague *[Kiev International]* 60

National Affairs

President Kuchma 18 Jan News Conference *[INTERFAX]* 60
Moroz 16 Jan Supreme Council Opening Speech *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 17 Jan]* 63
Moroz Favors Kuchma as Head of State *[UNIAN]* 64

Former Ukrainian Navy Commander on Black Sea Fleet Control *[UNIAR]* 64
Crimean Muslims Support Chechen Independence *[UNIAN]* 65
Meshkov Returns to Crimea To Celebrate '91 Referendum *[INTELNEWS]* 65
Crimean Communist Leader Interviewed *[VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 16 Jan]* 66

Economic Issues

Ukrainian Airline Deal With U.S. Companies Criticized *[VECHIRNIY KYYIV 16 Jan]* 67
Kuchma Says Local Authorities Hindering Privatization *[INTELNEWS]* 69
Ukraine: Supreme Council Adopts Bill on VAT Changes *[INFOBANK]* 69
Ukrainian Presidential Aide: Economic Situation 'Grave' *[ITAR-TASS]* 69

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Belarus: Supreme Soviet Chairman on Parliamentary Tasks *[INTERFAX]* 71
Belarus: KGB Opens 'Confidential Phoneline' *[Minsk Radio]* 71
Belarus: Rocket Base Commanders Steal 8 kg of Platinum *[Moscow Radio]* 71

Moldova

Snegur-Led Delegation Departs for CIS Summit *[INFOTAG]* 71
Aide Explains Moldova's Stance on CIS Customs Union *[Radio Rossii]* 71
Russian Commander Denies Missile Transfer to Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 72
Diplomatic Heads Visit Russian Troops in Dniester *[BASAPRESS]* 72
Dniester President Smirnov Signs New Constitution *[INFOTAG]* 72
Maracuta Reelected Tiraspol Supreme Soviet Speaker *[INFOTAG]* 72

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Hails Customs Union With Russia, Belarus *[Moscow Radio]* 74
Experts Detect Prospects To Find More South Kazkah Gold *[PANORAMA 12 Jan]* 74
Kazakhstan Allocates More Air Time to Russian Public Television *[Almaty TV]* 74

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev on Need for Referundum *[Bishkek TV]* 74

Tajikistan

Tajik Government Reports Opposition Cease-Fire Violations to UN *[Dushanbe Radio]* 76
Tajik Mufti, Family Murdered by 'Unidentified Killers' *[ITAR-TASS]* 76
President Rakhmanov Expresses Condolences *[ITAR-TASS]* 77

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Upholds Neutrality Principle at CIS Summit *[TURKMEN PRESS]* 77
Turkmenistan Issues Joint Communique on Karimov Visit *[PRAVDA VOSTOKA 18 Jan]* 78

Uzbekistan

President Karimov on Results of CIS Summit *[Tashkent TV]* 78

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Armenia: Problems With Power System Described *[ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN]* 81

Georgia

Georgia: Cooperation Treaty With Russia Ratified 'Unilaterally' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Jan]* 81

Georgia: Opposition Criticizes Ratification of Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 81
Shevardnadze Releases Statement on CIS Summit Resolutions *[CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY]* 82
Shevardnadze Satisfied With Anti-Separatist Policy *[ITAR-TASS]* 82
Georgia Foreign Minister on CIS Summit Resolutions *[Tbilisi Radio]* 82
Abkhazian Official Condemns CIS Decision on Sanctions *[INTERFAX]* 83
Russian Commander Denies Chechen Training Camps in Abkhazia *[IBERIA]* 84
Basayev Reportedly Observed Crossing Into Abkhazia *[Moscow ORT]* 84
Talks on Ossetia Underway in Norway *[Tbilisi Radio]* 84
Shevardnadze Assesses Economic Prospects *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 9 Jan]* 84
Georgia: Former Security Chief's Links With Mafia Confirmed *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 9 Jan]* 86

BALTIC STATES

Lithuania

Lithuanian Seimas Supports Russia's Bid To Join Council of Europe *[ITAR-TASS]* 88
President Brazauskas Addresses Baltic Symposium in Kiel *[ELTA]* 88
Lithuania: Interior Minister Submits Resignation *[Vilnius Radio]* 88

Political Reaction

Russian Leaders Thank Turkey for Resolving Hostage Crisis

LD2101190296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1837 GMT 21 Jan 96

[By Andrey Palaria]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ANKARA, January 21 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin sent their thanks to the Turkish leadership following the end of a three-day hostage drama aboard the ferryboat Avrasya.

The messages were sent to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, informed sources in Ankara told ITAR-TASS on Sunday.

In his message, Yeltsin expressed gratitude to all who were involved in the operation to free the hostages held by pro-Chechen gunmen aboard of the Avrasya for 72 hours in "yet another barbaric act of terrorism."

"International terrorism poses a threat to the entire humankind," the Russian leader stressed, adding that "the events of the last few days have confirmed that an uncompromising and effective struggle with this evil should be waged jointly."

"I am confident that in the future our countries will develop cooperation in this vital area in the interests of safeguarding peace, calm and prosperity of citizens," he said.

For his part, Chernomyrdin also thanked Ciller and her government for "active measures to free the passengers and the crew of the ferryboat Avrasya seized by terrorists."

The premier expressed the hope that the Russian passengers will return home as soon as possible.

"The hijacking of the ferryboat, yet another inhuman act of international terrorism, has once again highlighted the need for all civilised countries to join forces in their fight against this shameful phenomenon which makes innocent people suffer," he said.

"The inspirers and organisers of such actions must realise the inevitability of severe and just punishment," he added.

"I would like to express satisfaction with the close interaction and fruitful cooperation between the respective agencies of Russia and Turkey in localising the incident," the Russian premier noted.

"I am confident that a further favourable development of relations between Russia and Turkey will be to the benefit of our peoples and will help strengthen stability in the region and beyond its borders," Chernomyrdin said.

Russian Premier Thanks Turkish Counterpart

LD2001175896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and the Turkish Government for their "active measures to release the passengers and crew of the ferry Avrasya, detained by terrorists." In a message sent to the head of the Turkish Government, Viktor Chernomyrdin said he hoped the Russian citizens would return home very soon.

"The seizure of the ferry — the latest inhuman act of international terrorism — once again showed the need for all civilized countries to join forces against this shameful phenomenon which brings suffering to innocent people. Those who instigate and organize such acts should be aware that for them harsh and just retribution is inevitable," the message says.

"I wish to voice my satisfaction at our close interaction and the productive cooperation between the appropriate Russian and Turkish agencies to contain this incident," the Russian premier said.

"I am sure that the continued favorable development of relations between Russia and Turkey will serve both our peoples and strengthen stability in the region and beyond," the head of the Russian Government said.

Yeltsin 'Not Satisfied' With Handling of Avrasya

LD1901133696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1311 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Russia is not satisfied with the actions of the Turkish side in liberating the hostages of the Avrasya ferry boat seized by a pro-Chechen group, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told newsmen in the Kremlin. Russia has the capability to assist the Turkish authorities, he emphasized. But Turkey "has been putting it off so far," saying that it does not need any assistance, he added.

The Russian Foreign Ministry and power structures are constantly keeping in contact with the Turkish side, Boris Yeltsin said. A 150-strong group of divers has also been set up; they are prepared to help Turkey free the hostages, among whom there are 91 Russians, 30 Turks, seven Ukrainians, and people of other nationalities. This group "is ready for any action." Two destroyers alongside the ferry will also be there to render assistance.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russia: Avrasya Passengers Safe, Depressed

LD2001143096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — All the passengers from the Avrasya ferry, who were held hostage by pro-Dudayev terrorists for three days, "are physically safe, but morally depressed," Russia's Consul General to Istanbul Leonid Manzhosin told INTERFAX Saturday morning.

According to him, "the bandits exerted severe moral and psychological pressure on their captives, first of all on Russian nationals."

On Friday members of Turkey's judiciary inspected the vessel surrendered by the bandits and questioned its passengers; Saturday morning the ferry went back to the Turkish port of Trabzon, the diplomat said.

The bandits seized it on Tuesday.

The ferry is expected to make a stop in the port of Eregli between 11:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. Moscow time, Manzhosin said. There the Turkish authorities will take their final decision, upon consultations with the Russian Embassy to Ankara, on the possibility of despatching the over 100 passengers to Sochi, from where they arrived in Trabzon on board the Avrasya, he said.

Four Avrasya passengers — Natalya Shashkova, Olga Konnova and Lubov Golova of Russia and Maria Blank of Ukraine — remained in Istanbul, because their health had deteriorated, the diplomat said.

Golova had a miscarriage, and was hospitalized, Manzhosin said. When she is able to return home will be decided by doctors, he noted.

As for the remaining women, Russia's Consulate General put them in a good hotel, secured meals for them and helped to get in touch with their relatives. It is planning to send them back to Sochi by the next charter plane, Manzhosin said.

Yeltsin: There Was 'No Alternative' in Pervomayskoye

MM2201091296 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading "Russia Had No Alternative. Boris Yeltsin on the Tragedy in Pervomayskoye"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some 350 terrorists took part in the attack on the Dagestani town of Kizlyar, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced yesterday when opening the plenary session of leaders of the CIS member states.

According to the Russian president, 29 of the 350 gunmen were killed and 20 wounded in Kizlyar. Over 300 terrorists then set off on buses for Pervomayskoye, taking "110-120 hostages" — that figure is the hostages' own estimate, Boris Yeltsin stressed.

As for the terrorist action in Kizlyar, the president noted, the "General Prosecutor's Office has instituted criminal proceedings into this case, all the circumstances will be thoroughly investigated, and the degree of responsibility of all officials with the duty of combating terrorism and ensuring the population's safety will be determined."

There were 153 terrorists killed and 30 taken prisoner as a result of the federal troops' operation to free the hostages in Pervomayskoye. "All the residents of Pervomayskoye came out alive," the president stated. There were 24 civilians killed and several wounded in Kizlyar. The federal forces' losses in Kizlyar amounted to nine dead and 42 wounded.

According to the head of state's figures, the federal forces' losses in Pervomayskoye amounted to 26 killed and 93 wounded. Most of the hostages were freed as a result of the operation. Boris Yeltsin also reported that "during the night of 17-18 January a group of bandits supported by gunmen from Chechnya tried to break out of the encirclement using women, children, and captured policemen as cover." "Information on this terrorist action is being collected and analyzed now," the president reported.

"Of course this is a tragedy," B. Yeltsin said. "Civilians and servicemen have died. We mourn for them. But we had no alternative," the president stated.

Pervomayskoye Official Says Yeltsin's Staff 'Deceiving Him'

LD2001225896 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Video report by Aleksandr Zarelyan; from the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our NTV film crew was the only one able to get into the village of Pervomayskoye with the prime minister of Dagestan. Nobody is allowed in here now. The village has been almost totally destroyed. According to official estimates, 97 percent of the housing is unsuitable for winter conditions. Well, they are beginning to allow people back in now. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Unnamed chairman of Pervomayskoye Council] I would like to appeal to the President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin. There was very great deal of disinformation on central television that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

there were practically underground labyrinths, depots, and emplacements which had been prepared in advance for the fighters in Pervomayskoye and that heavy armaments were amassed here. That is a very real and very sorry lie. Those who are providing the president with information are obviously deceiving him.

[Zarelyan] So how did the fighters manage to resist the federal forces and the special-purpose militia detachments of Dagestan for so long?

[Council chairman] There were over 200 hostages here. They forced these people to work day and night. You can see that you can go along these positions — they are freshly dug trenches. It is impossible to build any underground structures here apart from the trenches because underground water is very close to the surface and in the summer you just have to dig down twice and you hit water. Do you see? It's practically impossible to build anything here. That's a bluff because where is just one of the heavy weapons which were said to be here? The fighters did not take them with them!

[Zarelyan] Another lie — as was the story that Dagestani elders were executed and that villagers dug fortifications for the terrorists. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Russia: News Conference on Chechnya Given by Kulikov, Barsukov

LD2001151696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1418 GMT 20 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Gorbunov and Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The federal forces planned to carry out the operation to free the hostages not in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye, but elsewhere. This was said by Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov at a news conference he gave, together with Federal Security Service [FSB] Director Mikhail Barsukov, at the Staraya Ploshchad [Old Square] press center.

According to Anatoliy Kulikov, several such places had been prepared. The federal forces' plan, the minister declared, was to "reduce the number of hostages to a minimum, to persuade the bandits to release the sick, the women, and the children first of all, so that only the men were left, and then to carry out the operation." However, Kulikov stressed, Raduyev, the fighters' ringleader, kept receiving increasingly harsh instructions from Dudayev, who demanded that the fighters not release the hostages but should shoot them and "hang on until help arrives from Chechnya."

At the news conference, FSB director Mikhail Barsukov read out several of these radio intercepts.

After this information started to come in, Anatoliy Kulikov continued, it was decided to launch the operation in Pervomayskoye. "But defensive installations had already been set up in the village, and they called for artillery rather than small arms," he said.

The interior minister also pointed out that the convoy of fighters and hostages was not allowed through into Chechnya in the vicinity of Pervomayskoye because there were no federal subunits able to detain the bandits in that part of Chechnya.

Russia: Barsukov Details Pervomayskoye Casualties

LD2001154996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1259 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Fuller version of LD2001130896; by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Gorbunov and Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — According to preliminary data, of the 120 hostages in the Dagestan village of Pervomayskoye, 82 were freed; of the more than 300 Dudayev militants, 153 were killed; 30 of the over 300 terrorists who took part in the action were captured. Federal Security Service [FSB] Director Mikhail Barsukov gave these figures at a news conference held here today.

Barsukov said that the number of militants killed "is evidently already higher," but the final figure is still being clarified.

Data on the remaining hostages is being "clarified," the FSB leaders noted. They reported: Some 2,414 men took part in the operation on the part of the federal forces; losses were 26 dead and 95 wounded.

The participants in the news conference noted that "the Russian president has already given political evaluations of the operation. A detailed analysis of what happened still lies ahead." Mikhail Barsukov said that probably "the careful study which is now being conducted will introduce some corrections."

"Unless this bandit sally is resolutely nipped in the bud, the escalation of terror in the Northern Caucasus and in Russia as a whole could become inevitable," Mikhail Barsukov said. After the capture of the ferry with Russian citizens in Turkey, Dudayevite terrorism went beyond the borders of Russia "and assumed the classic traits of international terrorism."

"The militants' actions in Pervomayskoye are unparalleled in world practice of fighting terrorism," the FSB

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

director said. We lacked tried and tested ways of tackling the tasks we were confronted with."

Mikhail Barsukov said the terrorist act in Kizlyar was aimed at "taking revenge for the political defeat of the Dudayev regime [Dudayevshchina] which manifested itself in the results of the December 1995 elections in Chechnya." He believes that Dudayev has also clearly been counting on "carrying the fire of war to the neighboring regions, and that the choice of multiethnic Dagestan was far from being fortuitous." In view of the multiethnic makeup of Dagestan, which includes a considerable number of Akinets Chechens, who live there, and also of refugees from Chechnya who are in Dagestan, the FSB director continued, the militants could easily penetrate there and use the republic's territory to move around disguised as refugees. The choice of Kizlyar was also favored by this town's proximity to Chechnya's administrative border.

The bandits taken prisoner, the FSB director said, have shown that other terrorist acts, some of them in Dagestan, have been planned, depending on the results of the Kizlyar action.

The capture of Pervomayskoye, as one of the bandits' operational options, was envisaged beforehand by them, the FSB director stressed. The stockpiles of weapons and the places of concealment discovered in Pervomayskoye are evidence of this, he said. This allows the conclusion to be drawn that Kizlyar "was only the first of a whole series of terrorist and diversionary actions preplanned in place and time," Mikhail Barsukov said.

The Dudayevites were able to carry out the raid on Kizlyar first of all because their action had been thoroughly planned and prepared, Mikhail Barsukov said. The militants had infiltrated into Dagestan territory one at a time and in small groups. "Second," he remarked, "Chechnya is not an island, so we were unable to deprive its inhabitants of the right to free movement in their own country." Moreover, the FSB director said, "Dudayev and his militants "have in fact been using the negotiating process to rearm and regroup their forces."

The law enforcement bodies are firmly resolved to do everything possible to prevent the proliferation of terrorism in Russia, the FSB director stressed. But to do this, "we need society's help," he said.

Barsukov on Bombing of Pervomayskoye

LD2001141196 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1300 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov and Federal Security Service [FSB] Director Mikhail Barsukov have at last spoken to the media about the events in Pervomayskoye. Our correspondent reports from the presidential press service building.

[Correspondent Adamchuk] FSB chief Mikhail Barsukov rightly observed that impunity leads to acts being repeated in a more daring version. That was why the Budennovsk scenario was not chosen. According to Barsukov, the tactic of wearing down the enemy and affecting him psychologically was used. It turns out that the Grad launchers were part of the psychological pressure. Barsukov declared that they were dispatched only to show everyone that the Russian Army has these launchers.

Minister Kulikov gave a very detailed account of the contacts between the fighters and the Russian troops. Kulikov said that during the Pervomayskoye operation the Russian command repeatedly suggested that the fighters surrender on condition that everyone was released.

Mikhail Barsukov said repeatedly that everything was done to keep the hostages safe, while minister Kulikov, as though to contradict him, said that heavy artillery and bombing was used.

But the question of how Raduyev managed to escape retribution despite the bombardment remains unanswered for the time being.

Anatoliy Adamchuk, news service, Ekho Moskvy.

Barsukov: Moscow, Yaroslavl Might Face Terrorist Acts

LD2001173996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1714 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — Director of the Russian Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov told INTERFAX today that he did not rule out that "the agonizing regime of [Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar] Dudayev" might try to "organize some terrorist acts."

"According to radio interception reports which the Federal Security Service has, [we] can say that Dudayev's men will try to launch a terrorist act in two Russian cities: Moscow and Yaroslavl," Barsukov said.

The radio interception reports have allowed the Federal Security Service to take efficient measures to prevent such crimes, Barsukov said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kulikov: Raduyev May Have Fled With '20 to 30' Others

LD2001143896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1419 GMT 20 Jan 96

[By Sergey Gorbunov and Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov said Salman Raduyev who led a recent raid on the Dagestani town of Kizlyar and the village of Pervomayskoye might have fled through the cordons of Russian troops, taking with him a group of "20 to 30 people."

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow on Saturday, Kulikov said that federal security forces have detained Raduyev's brother and killed his aide.

The minister admitted that the assault launched by Russian troops against the Chechen gunmen who held over 100 hostages caused a lot of damage to Pervomayskoye.

Dudayev: Chechen Raduyev To Be Tried for Kizlyar Incident

LD2201102996 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev asserts that the Chechens had nothing to do with the hijacking of the [Anastasya] ferry. He said this in an interview to the American weekly 'U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT.'

Besides that, he said that Salman Raduyev would be put on trial for taking hostages in Kizlyar. Dudayev said that his son-in-law would be punished so severely that other field commanders would not even think of repeating Raduyev's actions.

Chechen Raduyev Speaks on Dudayev's TV, Video Tapes Offered

MK2001143196 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 3

[TURAN, POSTFACTUM report: "Salman Raduyev Appears on TV"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Salman Raduyev, Chechen fighters detachment commander, appeared on Chechnya's television channel which is called presidential. This was advised to the TURAN news agency in the press and information ministry of Chechnya. The communique says that "having broken through the defense circle of the Russian special-purpose troops in the village of Pervomayskoye, the Raduyev group managed to get out onto the territory of Chechnya with minimum losses. The Chechen casualties are 15 men killed and 16 wounded. Further four Chechen fighters covering the detachment's withdrawal were taken prisoner with severe wounds." The communique stresses that "the Russian military people pass off the bodies of hostages and Pervomayskoye inhabitants as Chechen fighters in a bid to cover up their failure." At the same time, in accordance with information broadcast last night on Dudayev's television, Salman Raduyev, according to a POSTFACTUM news agency report, is alive and stays in a mountain village in Chechnya. Dudayev's television denied the information that close to 160 Raduyev's fighters were killed during combat operations in Pervomayskoye. Employees of the television channel offered to Russian and foreign journalists video footage taped in Pervomayskoye.

Chechen Head Zavgayev To Maintain 'Internal' Dialogue

LD2101234196 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1900 GMT 21 Jan 96

[From the "Sunday" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Doku Zavgayev, the head of Chechnya, who was officially sworn in last week, not only intends to continue internal Chechen dialogue but also assures us that this activity has never been interrupted.

[Begin Zavgayev recording, captioned as head of Chechnya] First, our main task, as I have always thought, is to maintain internal Chechen dialogue. It, therefore, comes as news to me when the so-called party makes this sort of statement. [sentence as heard] Either they are not aware of what is going on, or they do not know what they are doing. Thanks to internal Chechen dialogue, we have essentially managed to stop the war on our territory. If there is shooting or operations in some local areas, it is by no means the same situation that existed four or eight weeks ago, let alone a year ago.

Second, here is a specific example. Two weeks ago there was confrontation in the town of Urus-Martan — so-called Dudayevites on one side, and local people on the other. We managed to sort out the situation within a week thanks to the dialogue in which people of very high authority took part. It ended in mutual apologies and in crowds dancing in the main square of Urus-Martan. The Agrarian Party was the only one to take part, and I personally took part in these talks. The same situation existed in Achkhoy-Martan District. We used the same method to disentangle it. The same situation occurred in Shali — the same method sorted it out. In every district — in Nozhay-Yurt, Vedenskiy [Vedeno],

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Shatoy, and Tumkhalin, Achkhoy-Martan districts — teams of authoritative people, among them members of government, are working to conduct internal Chechen dialogue with the groups in conflict among themselves and with the law.

That has been the main direction of our work during the last six to ten weeks. That is where we have made progress. That is our future.

[Unidentified correspondent] Nevertheless, you have no such direct dialogue with the leaders of the Chechen opposition.

[Zavgayev] I do not know who you mean by the Chechen opposition, for a start.

[Correspondent] I mean Dudayev and people close to him.

[Zavgayev] Dudayev is in conflict with the Chechen people. He is not opposition in that sense. He is in conflict with the law and the Chechen people. He has now provoked, organized, and maintained in every way the campaign in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye. I think that after the latter such serious measures will be taken so as to rule out the recurrence of Budennovsk, Pervomayskoye, and Gudermes. None of them should ever happen again.

[Correspondent] Will these measures be yours, or will they be taken by the federal authorities?

[Zavgayev, hesitating] Uhh, joint measures. We are working with the population. Look, at our request, President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin signed a decree on rights and guarantees for members of illegal armed formations. The point of this decree is that those who will now stop illegal activities and lay down their arms will be given immunity against prosecution. The president gave every misguided soul the opportunity to go back to normal life and to go back to their families without losing face. They should make use of it. [end recording]

Chechen Roundtable Demands Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2001144696 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] If the Chechen war continues, the roundtable of parties and political movements in the Chechen Republic will call on all citizens to resort to armed resistance against the Russian forces. This was said in a statement issued by the participants in the roundtable and sent to the political leadership of Russia and Chechen Republic chief Zavgayev. The participants in the meeting urged the sides to continue peace talks, to withdraw the Russian troops from Chechnya, and to create conditions for nationwide elections. The roundtable unites 10 parties and movements of the republic.

We received this information from the POSTFACTUM agency.

Chechen Nationalities Minister: Negotiations Will Continue

LD1901144496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1313 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Negotiations in Chechnya are to continue, and with this intention personnel from the Russian Ministry for Affairs of Nationalities and Regional Policy today flew to the North Caucasus, said Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Russian minister for nationalities and regional policy, in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS.

In his words, from the very beginning of the Chechen crisis the ministry has tried to ensure that the conflict was kept within the confines of the republic. One of the minister's representatives was now in Chechnya on a permanent basis, and a center for ethnic problems had been created, staffed by personnel in close contact with ministries of Chechnya and other neighboring republics of the Russian Federation.

As for the events in the Dagestan village of Pervomayskoye, the minister noted that "the leadership of Dagestan showed restraint and wisdom by not acting on the impulse of revenge."

Mikhaylov emphasized that in his department the forecasting and analysis department would be reinforced, and the crisis and conflict situation department would be expanded and significantly strengthened.

Terrorist Activity

Russians Stay Aboard Ferry Avrasya After Terrorists Leave

LD2001141896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — None of the Russians, freed aboard the ferry Avrasya, captured by pro-Dudayev's terrorists, have agreed to leave the ship, Russia's General Consulate in Istanbul told INTERFAX Saturday morning.

The terrorists surrendered to Turkish authorities yesterday. The ferry with passengers and crew on board was

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nearing the Turkish port of Eregli, where Turkish special services intend to thoroughly search Avrasya for explosives that might have been planted by terrorists.

At Eregli, the passengers are to transfer to another vessel, which is to take them to Trabzon, where they are to disembark and board another ferry for a journey back home, the consulate said, adding that the final decision on Russian citizens and their luggage transportation to their homeland will be made in Ankara with Russian Embassy officials to take part.

In Istanbul now, there are three Russian women, and one Ukrainian woman, earlier released by the terrorists, the consulate reported.

Abducted Energy Workers Reportedly Found in Chechnya

LD2201115696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By Igor Ivantsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW January 22 (ITAR-TASS) — The whereabouts of 29 Russian energy workers, abducted last Tuesday near Groznyy, have been reportedly determined and the kidnappers want to exchange them for Chechen militants held prisoner by federal troops.

A well-informed source in the Russian Unified Energy System company told TASS on Monday that the workers of the Groznyy heat and electricity-generating plant, from where the workers were abducted, had themselves determined that all the hostages are alive and are kept in a mountain Chechen village.

The source said that unofficial talks had been held with the kidnappers who want to exchange each energy worker for one captured Chechen militant.

The source said the exchange proposal is being discussed in Groznyy with federal and local authorities.

Russia: Further on Missing Power Workers in Chechnya

LD2001121496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 20 Jan 96

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, January 20 (ITAR-TASS) — The press centre of the Chechen Interior Ministry has no information available about the fate of 29 workers from the a heat-generating plant who had arrived in Chechnya from Rostov and Volgodonsk and who were reportedly kidnapped by unidentified masked people earlier on Tuesday. However, a spokesman for the press centre declined to provide any details about an investigation into the incident.

He said that over the past twenty hour hours 20 crimes, including six violent crimes, had been committed on the territory of Chechnya. The press centre pointed out that crime rates had been growing in Chechnya and that many crimes had not been resolved.

Meanwhile, this heat-generating plant, one of the main plants supplying power to the Chechen capital, is on the verge of being shut down. Director of the heat-generating plant Nurdin Usamov complained to ITAR-TASS about catastrophic personnel shortages. "Around one hundred energy workers from different Russian regions are prepared to arrive in Groznyy as was confirmed in telegrams from regions, but I have not given my consent to their arrival," Usamov said. Guarantees of security are needed, but neither the government nor the Interior Ministry of the Republic can give guarantees of safety in such circumstances, he said.

Military Activity

Chechen Situation Reported as 'Tense' Despite Ramadan

LD2201121896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Jan 21 (INTERFAX) — Police confiscated ten grenades during raids in Chechnya's capital Sunday, the Interior Ministry's press center has reported.

The press center added that three vantage points from which gunmen were firing had been suppressed in the republic.

Ramadan has hardly had any effect on the overall situation in Chechnya, which the source described as tense.

Rebels Attack on Chechen Dam Unsuccessful

LD2101061296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0508 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 21 January (ITAR-TASS) — One serviceman was killed, and another four wounded in Chechnya during the last 24 hours. ITAR-TASS was informed of this over the telephone this morning by a spokesman for the press center of the joint grouping of federal forces in Chechnya.

There were 21 shooting incidents in Groznyy overnight. Fighters opened fire on commandant's offices, checkpoints and the temporary quarters of military units.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Fighters tried to get through to the Kargalinskaya dam, but the attack was beaten off. The dam itself was not damaged.

43 Dagestani Citizens Killed in Kizlyar, Pervomayskoye

LD2201094696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0600 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dagestan is still assessing the grave results of incidents in the town of Kizlyar and the villages of Pervomayskoye and Sovetskoye.

[Begin M. Magomedov, head of Dagestani State Council, recording] According to official reports, 43 Dagestani citizens were killed in the terrorist act and clashes; 35 people, mainly civilians, were killed in Kizlyar and eight police officers near Pervomayskoye and Sovetskoye as a result of clashes and attacks by the rebels. [end recording]

Russia's Barsukov, Kulikov on Pervomayskoye Operation

MM1901231196 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI (Saturday Edition) in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Mikhail Barsukov, director of Russian Federation Federal Security Service [FSB], and Anatoliy Kulikov, Russian Federation Minister of Internal Affairs, conducted by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI own correspondent Aleksandr Ryabushev, date and place unspecified: "Dudayev's Bandits Routed in Pervomayskoye" — first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The operation to eliminate Salman Raduyev's bandit formation which committed terrorist acts in Kizlyar and the village of Pervomayskoye, has been completed in Dagestan. Russian Federation FSB Director Mikhail Barsukov and Russian Federation Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov gave an exclusive interview to ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's own correspondent Aleksandr Ryabushev.

[Ryabushev] Can you state firmly that the operation to eliminate the gang of terrorists has been unequivocally completed?

[Mikhail Barsukov] Yes, I can. The operation to destroy the gunmen in Pervomayskoye has been completed and a mopping up operation is underway in the settlement. We freed 82 hostages and 18 are missing without trace.

We suppose that some of the hostages were not hostages but rather accomplices of the gunmen and that they went away with them. In all 15 bandits broke out of Pervomayskoye. We have already detained six on Chechnya's territory. A search for the others who broke through is being conducted. But although the operation as a whole has ended, much remains to be done in order to extirpate the causes that gave rise to such tragic events.

[Ryabushev] How do you assess the course of the operation?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] We are satisfied with the course of the operation, with the work of our subordinates, and with the good collaboration with army subunits. I would say that we avoided major losses — 26 military servicemen were killed whereas the terrorists lost 153 in Pervomayskoye and a further 29 in Kizlyar. About 40 gunmen were taken prisoner.

[Ryabushev] Were there losses among the local population?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] All the inhabitants of Pervomayskoye came out alive. Unfortunately 24 people out of the population of Kizlyar perished and there were several wounded.

[Ryabushev] How many hostages perished?

[Mikhail Barsukov] I can state unequivocally that we did not find a single hostage while the operation in Pervomayskoye was being carried out. But we have data to suggest that the gunmen shot some of the hostages and buried them. Unfortunately we have not yet discovered their bodies.

[Ryabushev] Was Raduyev killed?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] We have not yet found him among those killed. We are now hunting him. And if he is alive he will not get away from us.

[Ryabushev] Were there foreign mercenaries among the gunmen in Dagestan?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] We confiscated documents from one citizen from Syria and one from Egypt. The investigation will show what sort of people these were. They all came to Chechnya from Azerbaijan.

[Ryabushev] For what purpose did they come here?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] To all appearances, it was to earn money and then for a large sum they agreed to the gunmen's proposition.

[Ryabushev] What measures have been taken with regard to the prisoners?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] We are sending them all to a screening center. Among them are "hostages" who left [vyshedshiye] Pervomayskoye without documents. The first check has shown that they all have bruised

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

shoulders and singed temples and cheeks. This means that an assault rifle was slung on their shoulders and that they fired from a rocket launcher. I can say that among the hostages are many Dudayevite accomplices and Pervomayskoye was selected not just at random by the gunmen. A well equipped base of operations had been organized there which could not have been set up in two days. Undoubtedly preparatory measures had been carried out here in advance.

[Ryabushev] Won't the conflict in Dagestan where Chechen refugees are living, develop into a civil war?

[Mikhail Barsukov] I hope that the good sense of the Dagestanis will prove stronger than the propagandist befuddling of the senses that is being imposed by Dudayev's supporters. I think that there will be order and peace in Dagestan. In any event, we see this as our chief task.

[Ryabushev] What do you know about the fate of the policemen from Novosibirsk who were held hostage?

[Anatoliy Kulikov] Twenty-five policemen who were held hostage were freed in Pervomayskoye. The fate of the remaining 12 is unknown. There are wounded among the policemen. I would like to recall that a composite detachment of Novosibirsk policemen on patrol and checkpoint duty were performing alert duty at the checkpoint by the village of Pervomayskoye and ended up in the hands of the gunmen having surrendered their weapons to the terrorists to avoid casualties among the inhabitants of the village and among the hostages.

[Ryabushev] Can you avoid such terrorist actions in the future?

[Mikhail Barsukov] We can if terrorism is concertedly rebuffed by all the peoples inhabiting Russia.

Chechen Rebel Raduyev Reported Alive, Uninjured

LD2001192496 Moscow NTV in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Jan 96

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received another report on the Pervomayskoye theme

Ingulbayev, one of Dudayev's commanders, has said that Raduyev is alive and is not even injured.

This was reported by RIA, citing a source in Groznyy.

Chechen Rebels Pledge To Release Dagestani Hostages

LD2101173996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1727 GMT 21 Jan 96

[By Nikolai Zagnoiko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, January 21 (ITAR-TASS) — Chechen rebels said on Sunday they would release the hostages from Pervomayskoye without pre-conditions.

The statement was made by a representative of the command of Chechen rebel forces during his meeting with foreign journalists in Groznyy.

He said the hostages, who had been taken by Chechen gunmen from Pervomayskoye to Chechnya, will be handed over to Dagestani authorities in the Chechen village of Novogroznensky.

At the same time, he noted that the decision will not affect Russian policemen from Novosibirsk who are expected to be exchanged for Chechen gunmen captured by federal security forces during their recent assault on Pervomayskoye where a group of rebels led by Salman Raduyev, Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev's brother-in-law, held over 100 hostages.

The gunmen's attempt to break through the cordons of Russian troops around the besieged village did not come as a surprise to Russian military commanders.

Federal forces were prepared for that and were ready to repel such an attempt, Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), said at a press conference on Saturday.

Barsukov noted that the commanders who had worked out the details of the assault on the village "expected the gunmen to try to break through the blockade and either leave the hostages in Pervomayskoye or take with them only a small number of them."

"We were ready for such an attempt and hoped to destroy as many bandits as possible without putting the lives of the hostages remaining in the village at risk," he said.

Russian Security Unaware of Hostage Release Plans

LD2201085696 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0300 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted, on Chechen plans to release hostages at Novogroznenskiy on 23 January] We have asked the Federal Security Service to comment on these reports of the forthcoming release of hostages, but they have said they know

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nothing about it; nor do they have any information on the fate of the 29 electricity workers who were kidnapped on Tuesday in Groznyy. [passage omitted: Grozenergo to mount its own search for the hostages]

Escaped Chechen 'Gunmen' Said To Be in Gudermes Region

LD2201122696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 22 (INTERFAX) — A group of Chechen gunmen, who escaped from the Pervomayskoye settlement, Dagestan, is claimed to be in the Gudermes region, a source at a Russian "power" department told INTERFAX Monday.

"There is indirect information that the gunmen are holding some hostages they took in Dagestan, including the Novosibirsk police officers," he said.

There are no reports on Salman Raduyev, the head of the group of gunmen who attacked the Dagestan town of Kizlyar.

The federal law-enforcement bodies and their Dagestan colleagues are trying to establish contact with the gunmen to settle the hostage problem.

Dagestan MVD Denies Discovery of Fighters in Pervomayskoye

LD2001111096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0935 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 20 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The situation in the vicinity of the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye today is "normal," and no more terrorists who might still be hiding there have been discovered. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this today by telephone by a duty officer at Dagestan's Interior Ministry [MVD].

According to the MVD duty officer, work was still going on to clear up after the fighting in Pervomayskoye, where on Thursday federal forces completed the operation to free the hostages and annihilate the group of Dudayev's fighters. Local residents are being allowed to go into the village, he added.

A spokesman for Dagestan's MVD categorically denied reports in some of the media to the effect that a group of fighters, who had been hiding all this time in the village together with several hostages, were discovered today in the Pervomayskoye area and captured.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent also contacted a representative of the command of the group of federal forces in Chechnya, who said that he had no information about the discovery of any new fighters in Pervomayskoye. Nor is there any information on the subject at the public relations center of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation either.

Chechen Guerrillas Say 60 Hostages Still Held

NC2101084496 Paris AFP in English 0820 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eastern Chechnya, Russia, Jan 21 (AFP) — Chechen guerrillas are still holding around 60 of the 150 hostages they seized two weeks ago in the southern Russian republic of Dagestan, guerrilla chiefs said Sunday [21 January].

An AFP correspondent was shown 37 hostages, including 16 policemen, who were being kept in a secret location in eastern Chechnya.

Nazar Edilkhadzhiyev, one of the field commanders in charge of the hostages, said that about 20 more had been brought in from Dagestan overnight. An unknown number of others were being treated in hospitals or being kept at other sites, guerrilla leaders said.

Edilkhadzhiyev said the hostages would probably be released soon but that their fate was to be decided by Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

The hostages were seized in Dagestan after a raid by Chechen guerrillas on a Russian air base. The rebels and their captives were then trapped in the village of Pervomayskoye, which Russian forces failed to capture in repeated assaults and bombardments.

The rebels broke out through surrounding Russian troops before dawn Thursday, taking large numbers of the hostages with them to neighbouring Chechnya.

Most of the rebels, including the commander, Salman Raduyev, were able to escape to Chechnya, guerrilla leaders said.

Russian authorities say that 84 of about 150 hostages were freed.

Russia: Nine More Rebels Captured at Pervomayskoye

LD2001143596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — Ten rebels from Salman Raduyev's band Friday tried to break through the Dagestani settlement of Pervomayskoye, liberated by federal forces on January 18th, a spokesman for the Federal Forces Command in Chechnya reported today, adding that in a skirmish one militant was killed and nine surrendered with five automatic rifles, one machine-gun, and one grenade-thrower.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The ten were in hiding on an outskirt of Pervomayskoye since January 18th when federal troops completed their operation to eliminate Raduyev's band and save the hostages.

The rebels encountered federal troops at a road block when they tried to make a break from Pervomayskoye, the source said, recalling that in an earlier raid, federal forces captured 30 militants from Raduyev's unit.

Russia: Reports From Pervomayskoye; No Fortifications Seen

LD2001160796 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1500 GMT 20 Jan 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The situation in the village of Pervomayskoye was normal today. None of the terrorists thought to be hiding there was found, a duty officer of the Dagestani Interior Ministry told ITAR-TASS by phone. He said mopping-up is continuing in Pervomayskoye. Local residents are allowed to return to the village.

[Correspondent A. Vernitskiy] Although the military have begun withdrawing from the village of Pervomayskoye and local residents have begun to move their belongings from the destroyed houses, the media are not allowed into the village under the pretext that mines had not yet been lifted in the area. However, using country lanes and bypassing roadblocks which are still being kept in the area, we found ourselves in Pervomayskoye. Not all corpses have yet been removed from the streets. Identification is under way both of the killed militants and the killed hostages. There are mines here, too. Engineers are blasting them outside the village. We did not see any solid fortifications made by the militants in the village. We saw properly planned but hastily dug trenches, embrasures in the basements of houses where such basements existed, because the houses here are mainly built of adobe bricks. Even the mosque which has been destroyed to its foundation is adobe.

[Begin recording] [Vernitskiy — addressing two young men in the street] When you were leaving the village, there were no trenches here? Is this true?

[Unidentified man] True, no trenches at all. There was absolutely nothing here. [end recording]

[Vernitskiy] [passage omitted: village badly was destroyed; the militants' fortifications encircled the village] There is no undestroyed house in Pervomayskoye. The typical thing is that all houses have been destroyed and there are practically no craters in the streets and in between the houses.

Anton Vernitskiy and Rudolf Ushanov, for Russian Public television, in the village of Pervomayskoye. [video shows the village, dead bodies, mines, street views]

Pervomayskoye Troops Claim They Were 'Left Exposed'

LD2001222096 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Jan 96

(Video report by Svetlana Sorokina; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who took part in the Pervomayskoye operation themselves, the servicemen from elite Russian sub-units, made their views on the conduct of the operation known today. Reporters from Moscow TV channel's "News of the Week" program, jointly with the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA video unit, met the officers returning from Pervomayskoye at a railway station in the capital today. You will not see their faces for obvious reasons. [video shows men with blacked-out faces]

[Begin recording] [Unidentified voice] We were left exposed, quite simply, we were left exposed. They said that artillery and air forces would be brought into play. Well, they were but very badly.

How can you talk of hostages when the target is being completely annihilated? So, hostages were being annihilated, militants were being annihilated, and we were being annihilated. That's all there is to it.

[Second unidentified voice] We collected and melted the snow, to get a drink of water. It does speak for itself, right? But this is the Officer Corps, Russia's elite sub-units, there are no other units like that.

[Third unidentified voice] You cannot call it a victory because if you have an operation to free hostages under way and if even a single hostage dies, then, from my point of view, the operation has been a failure. I cannot name names for the simple reason that up until the last moment it was not known for sure who was in command of us. Yesterday (19 January) I saw (Minister of Internal Affairs Colonel General Anatoliy Nikolayevich) Kulikov at the command post. [end recording]

Chechen Leader Basayev's Location Discovered

LD1901132196 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Special correspondent Andrey Veduta reports that the location of Shamil Basayev's group has been found in Chechnya. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Interior Ministry says that Basayev is hiding on the border of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. Speaking of the situation in general, our correspondent says:

[Veduta] Yesterday, at the inauguration ceremony for the head of the republic [of Chechnya], Doku Zavgayev said that the population of the republic is confused by various ambitious politicians whose actions are pushing the people back to medievalism. This situation of chaos affects the crime situation in the republic, too. The Chechen Interior Ministry told journalists at a briefing that since 1 March 1995 a total of 5,043 crimes were registered in the republic including 4,200 serious crimes. About 70 percent of the crimes remain unresolved.

As far as the hostages from the TETs-2 in Groznyy are concerned, their whereabouts are still not yet known. The Chechen Interior Ministry assumes it to be one of the villages in Groznenskiy district but this information has not been confirmed. [passage omitted]

Troops Free Russian Serviceman Held by Chechen Militants

LD2001145496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — A serviceman of Russia's Internal Ministry troops, long held by Chechen militants, was freed yesterday, a spokesman for Federal Troops Command in Chechnya has reported, adding that it took a special operation to free him.

Although federal forces had no casualties, their positions came under militants fire 20 times last night. Attacks were mounted mainly in Groznyy, where check-points and commandant offices were fired on.

TV equipment, used by Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters for going on the air, was confiscated as a result of the successful operation on Friday, the source said.

Russia: Interview on Why Nerve Gas Was Not Used in Dagestan

MK2001100096 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 1

[Interview with Vasiliy Korolev by Yevgeniy Antonov: "Closed Topic;" first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] When you look at the figures of casualties in the Pervomayskoye operation, many questions crop up in your head. Could it have been managed without guns, without aircraft? We all remember feature films where they employed soporific, irritating, and other gases, which enabled unobstructed passage into the territory of a helpless enemy. It is about this that Vasiliy Korolev, head of first department of the radiation-chemical and biological protection troops headquarters, who is also acting chief of staff, talked with MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS.

[Antonov] Could chemical weapons have been employed to free hostages in Pervomayskoye?

[Korolev] I know not of such assets. We do not have them. The holders of these assets are the interior ministry troops. I only know of smoke pots used by police abroad to disperse demonstrations.

[Antonov] Was it possible to employ them in Pervomayskoye?

[Korolev] No, because we have no such assets on such a scale. And then they would not have been of much use out there. The territory is too big.

[Antonov] Are there other methods of employment of irritants, like dropping a bomb, for example?

[Korolev] Methods of employment of this weapon are a closed topic. We have no such assets in our directorate.

[Antonov] Which do you have?

[Korolev] Combat assets, they are being destroyed now. Our directorate is taking care of this. These agents cannot be used in a local war.

For that you should turn to the Federal Security Service or the Ministry of Internal Affairs. [interview ends]

The history of combating terrorism includes various instances when chemical agents were employed. It is therefore naive to assume that Russia does not have similar procedures. Of course, they exist. It is impossible, though, to get an answer to the question of why they are not used in practice. It is a closed topic.

Chechen Guerrilla Morale High After Year of War

AU2101171796 Paris AFP in English 1642 GMT 21 Jan 96

[By Sebastian Smith]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Novogrozny, Russia, Jan 21 (AFP) — Chechnya is ablaze with hostage takings and fighting a year after Russia stormed the tiny Caucaus republic.

In the last two weeks, Chechen guerrillas have proved in a series of spectacular raids that they are still a force to be reckoned with, despite more than 12 months of devastating ground and air offensives by the Russians.

Russian forces are clearly not giving up on Chechnya, where an estimated 25,000 civilians have died in the war, and sporadic shelling and shooting goes on. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

outskirts of the small town of Novogrozny were hit by a salvo of Grad rockets late Monday [15 January].

But the Chechens are boxing clever and morale is high.

When a group of about 200 fighters infiltrated the neighbouring southern Russian republic of Dagestan and attacked a helicopter gunship base almost two weeks ago, it ran into trouble.

But to the world's amazement, the group of Moslem fighters, who had taken about 150 hostages and holed up in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye, held off all-out assaults by Russia's toughest commandos backed by non-stop bombardments.

The shelling and rocketing of Pervomayskoye did not leave a house standing, according to witnesses.

The Chechens were only armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers and machineguns.

When the situation became hopeless, the Chechens struck the demoralised Russian armed forces an even harder blow: A rescue force crossed the border into Dagestan and helped the encircled guerrillas in Pervomayskoye escape — with many of their hostages.

"Moscow intended to kill everything alive, (so) we undertook a major, planned operation to break the seige of (guerrilla commander Salman) Raduyev's men and save the hostages from the rockets, artillery and bombs," said Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov.

"We undertook this and succeeded," he said in an interview in Novogrozny.

The Russians wanted to "destroy the Chechen army fighters and the hostages," Maskhadov said. "But great Allah did it all the other way. They showed their complete helplessness."

Maskhadov said the rescue force numbered about 400 fighters who walked all night across the border into Dagestan, carrying their weapons on their backs.

In a final humiliation for the Russians, the escaping guerrillas managed to bring back about 60 of their hostages. An AFP correspondent saw 37 and top commanders said there were about 20 more.

Meanwhile, unknown groups have reportedly taken a total of about 59 hostages outside the capital Groznyy, which was destroyed by Russian bombing at the start of the war, and near the southwestern town of Achkhoy Martan.

Their demands were also unknown, but the hostage takings appeared to have been inspired by the ruthless Chechen rebel hostage takings in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk in June and the latest one in Dagestan.

Chechen guerrillas have regained full control of numerous towns, including most of the southern mountains and even towns and villages on the plains, which fell to Russian troops in heavy fighting nine to 10 months ago, but were never held.

Maskhadov's temporary base in Novogrozny, from where he said he organised the Dagestani operations, lies on the main east-west road through Chechnya, and is crawling with armed rebels.

Morale seems as high among the fighters as it did at the start of the war, with many saying that they are learning how to use their infinitely smaller weaponry to better use against the giant Russian forces.

Symbolising the new mood among the rebels, field commanders regularly use walkie-talkies, something only the top commanders had earlier.

Maskhadov, who has commanded the guerrillas since the war began in December 1994, indicated that his tactic was to bleed the Russians by a thousand cuts.

"All actions here will be answered. If they arrest our people, we'll take hostages. If they kill someone at one of our posts, we'll kill. If they undertake operations, we'll hit them in another village, if they use aviation, we'll hit them in Russia," he said.

He dismissed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's vow in the wake of the Dagestan hostage crisis to wipe out rebel bases.

"All that he and his armed forces can do, they've done. There's nothing except nuclear weapons they haven't used," he said. "In the end, they'll have no other choice but to leave."

"In Chechnya, every village is a fortress. Every village and town can be defended to the end," he said.

Unable to break the independence rebellion, Moscow may eventually be forced to give concessions at the negotiating table or renew all-out assaults on civilian-packed villages sympathetic to the rebels.

The Council of Europe is due to consider Russia's application to join on Thursday and the main obstacle remains the bloody campaign in Chechnya.

Russian General Talks of Mercenaries in Chechnya

MM2201124096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 1

[Interview with State Duma Deputy Major General Ibragim Abdurakhmanovich Suleymenov by Sergey

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Konyayev; place and date not given: "We Will Not Talk With Gangs of 'Gynecologists'" — first paragraph is introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] From the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA files: Until his election as State Duma deputy, Major General Ibragim Abdurakhmanovich Suleymenov was military commissar of the Chechen Republic. He was born 11 February 1953. He graduated from the Leningrad Antiair Defense Higher Military-Political School in 1977, and from the Military-Political Academy in 1985. He worked his way up from deputy company commander for political affairs to chief of a brigade political section. In October 1991 he was elected as deputy of the Chechen Republic Supreme Soviet, where he headed the Committee for Defense and Security. He has spent nine months in Dudayev's torture chambers.

[Konyayev] Ibragim Abdurakhmanovich, are a native of Groznyy?

[Suleymenov] No. Following the well known events in 1944, my parents moved to Kazakhstan where I was born. The family was fairly well off, my father worked really hard. Nonetheless, we dreamed of returning home to the Caucasus, and we succeeded in making this dream a reality.

[Konyayev] Since time immemorial, the highlanders have been considered to be good soldiers. And you have also chosen the military profession....

[Suleymenov] During the so-called stagnation times, every real man in our republic deemed it his duty to serve in the Army. Old and young alike showed respect for people in uniform. This is why, once I completed my draft service, I decided on my future career. And I have no regrets.

[Konyayev] What are you in terms of your beliefs — a Communist, a democrat, a national-patriot?

[Suleymenov] I was a member of the CPSU for almost 20 years. But I would put the question differently: General, are you for or against the restoration of the Union? I would answer unambiguously: For! But this does not at all mean that I am suggesting some sort of annexation of the former Union republics' sovereignty. As for patriotism, I would say this. Each normal citizen is simply bound to be a patriot. But without the "national" prefix. I see no point in upholding the interests of one's own people outside Russia.

[Konyayev] You are one of Chechnya's cadre military personnel who did not change their beliefs following the seizure of power by General Dudayev. Nonetheless, you did head the republic's Committee for Defense and Security in Dudayev's parliament.

[Suleymenov] Yes, initially I had to work under Dudayev's leadership, but not for long. I announced my resignation from parliament after this extremist's supporters had fired shots at a peaceful demonstration in Groznyy. Dudayev did not want to part company with me and offered me a general's stripes. I refused.

[Konyayev] This was a de facto break with the ruling regime. But you did not leave the republic, as was done by many well known politicians. Why?

[Suleymenov] Someone had to stand up against the usurper. My clan backed me. At the same time, I was still a cadre military officer and deemed it my duty to hinder the reign of arbitrariness in Chechnya.

[Konyayev] Ibragim Abdurakhmanovich, what are your views regarding the ways to solve the military confrontation in Chechnya at this stage of the conflict's development?

[Suleymenov] I believe that it is necessary to complete the purge of population centers held by the bandits. We do not refuse talks with elders and people who are respected in the villages. We succeeded in peacefully squeezing the gunmen out of Urus-Martan and Achkhoy-Martan and the villages of Shchelkovskaya and Naurskaya. But there will be no talk with the gangs of "gynecologists." The "gynecologists" are Shamil Basayev and Salman Raduyev. This is what the people call them after the seizure of the hospitals in Budennovsk and Gudermes, and now in Kizlyar. It is a great shame for a Chechen to launch an armed attack against women in maternity wards. It is altogether useless to talk about any morality whatsoever in such cases....

[Konyayev] Is Basayev really so difficult to capture?

[Suleymenov] His cutthroats hold several villages in Vedenskiy Rayon. He has no intention of pulling out of there. He threatens reprisals against the civilian population if anyone attempts to leave the territory controlled by Basayevites. This is a kind of "human shield." And here is something else. Quite recently a group of armed rogues went to the village of Pervomayskoye (Chechnya, as well as Dagestan, has a village of that name) from where they regularly fired on the positions of a Russian Army motorized infantry regiment. And yet our Pervomayskoye is the site of Ertin-Kort, a holy place for all Muslims. According to tradition, this is where the Prophet's mother is buried. The bandits were evidently banking on an artillery strike against the village.... The same thing on which Raduyev's bandits were banking when they dug in in Dagestan's Pervomayskoye.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Konyayev] Could it be said that the terrorist acts performed in the recent past are also a consequence of the struggle for power between different clans?

[Suleymenov] No way! The gangs now operating in the republic have nothing more to lose. They are fragmented and have no clan allegiance. They are mainly former criminals who found "succor" with Dudayev or foreign mercenaries.

[Konyayev] Many mass media have claimed in the recent past that mercenaries from various Arab states are being thrown into the mountain villages. Is this true?

[Suleymenov] I can declare with utmost responsibility that mercenaries from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan are being brought into Chechnya through Georgia and Azerbaijan. Not only are they well trained, but they are also advocates of Wahhabism — the most reactionary stream of the Muslim religion. They totally reject the fundamental commandments of the Koran. According to information at my disposal, about 1,000 persons are already "infected" by the virus of Wahhabism. There are also case of the "Wahhabization" of Russian guys who are held by Dudayevites against their will.

[Konyayev] Should Dzhokhar Dudayev take part in settling the situation in Chechnya?

[Suleymenov] 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu, member of Jordan's parliament but a Chechen by origin, arrived in Groznyy not so long ago. He met with clan elders and residents of Chechnya's capital and adjacent regions. During his meeting with the elders, raising the topic of the conflict's settlement, 'Abd-al-Baqi asked: "A pack of hungry wolves is raging outside your home. You have a gun and just one bullet. What should be done to disperse the pack?" One of the elders thought awhile and said: "Shoot the bitch and the pack will disperse." Clear enough?

[Konyayev] Some politicians compare the Chechen conflict with the conflict in Afghanistan. Is that correct?

[Suleymenov] I cannot understand such windbags. Nor can I share their demands that troops be pulled out. First, the actual term does not conform with normal logic. From where and to where should Russian troops pull out? Chechnya is a component of the Russian Federation, consequently the soldiers are in their own country. Second, the federal forces are taking part in imposing constitutional order on the territory of a Russian Federation component, not of a foreign state. This is why I see no point in talking about some second Afghanistan.

It is a different matter if some units are not being used to impose law and order, they must return to their permanent stations. And they should be replaced by special subunits trained in combat against armed gangster formations.

[Konyayev] You have been elected a State Duma deputy. What do you consider to be your immediate tasks?

[Suleymenov] The main point for Chechnya is peace, restoration of the national economy, and organization of normal life. This is what I consider to be my main task. As a Russian Army general, I will struggle to restore the prestige of the officer's profession. Persons who are serving the state should be secure in all regards.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yeltsin Holds News Conference at CIS Summit

LD1901184296 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1738 GMT 19 Jan 96

[News conference held by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the CIS Heads of State Council session in Moscow on 19 January — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [video shows Yeltsin flanked by CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya] The agenda was very full indeed. It had 24 issues. All these issues have been examined. Decisions have been made on all these 24 issues. In addition, three more issues were examined, and decisions have been made on these three issues.

My sympathy goes, yet again, to those journalists who tried very hard through the media and today's papers to suggest that the Council of the Heads of States will today come to naught because Shevardnadze's proposal will not be accepted, and so on and so forth. A decision has been adopted.

The most important thing is that, bearing in mind that the CIS has already been in existence for four years, the main tendency for the development of our countries has taken shape. This is a tendency of moving toward a voluntary integration of the CIS member states. This is the main and uppermost topic discussed today. Questions, from whatever angle, also pertained to integration of states.

Of course, not all states go for this integration for the time being, but already half of them have appended their signatures and I think we will gradually move toward a situation in which all CIS states join this process of integration.

As far as the creation of an organizational and legal system of the Commonwealth is concerned, things are better here. We have a solid base of treaties and agreements as far as integration is concerned. As far as the practical implementation of these legal documents is concerned, things are worse here.

The main task now is to organize specific cooperation in various areas of practical work. Most of our discussion was devoted to this. The heads of CIS states deemed it necessary to make their views known concerning the issue of the restoration of the former Union and were all unanimous, to a man, that this was not an issue on our states' agenda and that we will not debate it. Calls to this effect are, of course, made from time to time now, but these are only isolated cases.

The main reason here is that it may breed strife, provoke violence, and engender a great many serious problems. The CIS states have no intention of renouncing their political independence, nor can anyone force them, no matter how eagerly communists call upon states, their leaders, and peoples to do so.

The only way forward for us all is to enhance the effectiveness of the CIS and to arrive at a higher degree of integration among our states.

Just as was the case a year ago, Russia was at today's meeting entrusted with heading the Council of the Heads of States. It is already the third year running, and even though the original agreement was a year each, I was today unable to get out of it. As far as the second half of the year is concerned, it is for the time being premature to speak of that, since I have not yet announced whether I will agree to stand for president.

What issues did we discuss? The issues concerning the strengthening of the customs and payments unions, a decision has been made here. Well, decisions have been made on all the issues and that is why I will not repeat myself.

We discussed the concept of averting and settling conflicts on the territory of the CIS member states. That is to say, we have decided to unite and act in common against these bandits, against terrorists.

Incidentally, they lent us their support, you know. This despite the fact that many media heaped dirt on us, including the president. I say to you again: The decision that was made was the correct decision.

As MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS said today, you know — and it is a rare thing for this paper to put things so aptly — but today this paper said that mad dogs must be shot dead. This is because afterward they do even greater harm. We let Shamil Basayev go in Budennovsk — and most of the members of his gang came with Salman Raduyev here, to Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye. This, then, is the result of our previous decision.

Yes, we spent a week negotiating with them. Yes, we freed the maximum number of hostages. Out of 120 hostages so far we cannot find 24. The rest were freed. The clear-up operation is now underway, of course, conclusions are being drawn, the procuracy is at work. Identification and the rest of it is also being carried out. Identification, well, in brief, the procuracy is working to draw the final conclusions in perhaps two or three days' time when our forces structures and ministries will hold a major news conference with video film, photographs, diaries, and so on and so forth.

Next, the extension of the mandate for collective peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. It was decided to extend it until June this year. About Georgia's proposed measures to resolve the conflict in Abkhazia. True, with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

some amendments, to which Shevardnadze consented, the decision was passed. On cooperation between CIS members on border issues, on collective measures to maintain the peace in the CIS, on training and instruction of military and civilian personnel of CIS members for participation in peacekeeping measures. On a protocol on an agreement between Commonwealth member states regarding social and legal guarantees for servicemen made redundant by the military and for their families. What happens now is one of our veterans passes away, see, in another state and they do not even want to bury him. There was not any legal agreement on that, see? Well, today, we signed such a legal agreement that says what states have to do, and so on. [as heard]

[We agreed] on the Council of Interior Ministers. The CIS did not have such a council. It was set up today: the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth member states.

We agreed on the initiatives put forward by a conference of general procurators of the CIS states. In the past there was no coordination between the general procurators so that they could liaison between themselves and resolve together some major issues. Our new general procurator showed some initiative, gathered them together here in Moscow, and held an interesting conference, I must say. All of them agreed and gave their proposals at today's session of the Council of the Heads of State and the heads of state approved all the proposals.

We agreed to hold the first congress of cultural figures of the Commonwealth member states and discussed other issues of interstate cooperation in the field of culture. It was decided that it will be held in Minsk this year.

We also discussed the flag and the emblem of the Commonwealth of Independent States and, again, a decision was made.

We discussed the work of the Collective Security Council. Its headquarters have been instructed to resolve the smaller issues themselves. So, as you can see...[pauses] And a number of other issues.

So, as you can see, the summit was fruitful.

[Unidentified voice-over] After the introduction by Boris Yeltsin, CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya chaired the news conference and the president answered journalists' questions.

[Sorvaz] Mykhaylo Sorvaz, the ZA VILNU UKRAIYNY newspaper, Ukraine. Mr. Yeltsin, throughout its history the Russian state had a strong-arm approach toward Ukraine. When you became president, you diversified it a little bit and closed the gas and oil taps. My question is: Do you have any other secret plans of exerting pressure on Ukraine to make it, yet again, become a Russian province?

[Yeltsin] Like any other citizen of Russia, I am offended by this question. We have no secret plans against Ukraine. Moreover, I had a meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma yesterday, at which we resolved practically all the outstanding issues and problems. We agreed to finalize a number of agreements and to finalize a treaty. I will go to Ukraine with an official visit in March to sign a large-scale political treaty between Russia and Ukraine.

[Korotchenya] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich. Next question is from the Mir Television and Radio Company. That is our CIS company.

[Unidentified correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, first of all allow me to congratulate you on behalf of our company on your election for a third term as chairman of the Council of Heads of State of our Commonwealth. I think it is a great honor conferred by all the member states on Russia for the work it has done. This is my question. How did you view this? Those taking part in today's session unanimously agreed that we have to counter and prevent military conflicts, separatism, and terrorism. I think the connection between the latter two words is clear. Has the degree of unanimity and coordination increased, in your opinion?

[Yeltsin] Not only the extent of coordination has grown, but also the extent of understanding of the tragedy in this issue, not only for Russia, but for all the CIS countries, and not only for the CIS. If this flame spreads to other countries, then everyone will suffer. They all understand that. So today's documents on the collective beating back of terrorism were adopted and were supported in the discussions. They were passed unanimously and with much enthusiasm.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Russian Public Television at Ostankino.

[Yeltsin, interrupting] By the way, as you said in your question, there never used to be such unanimity. One, or two, or three, or four countries thought it was not their problem. That it would not concern them. Now they have realized that it will concern them if we do not take the kind of action that will make Dudayev's terrorists, who have already gone international, understand that their days are numbered. Their days are numbered. And incidentally, any of them who thinks he can do a deal with Russia is wrong. How many agreements have we had with them? And from them all we receive are lies. Signed agreements, unsigned ones, and simply verbal ones have all been dumped. They have broken all the promises they gave during talks.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Korotchenya] Russian Public TV Ostankino, go ahead.

[Aleksandridi] Mikhail Aleksandridi, Russian Public Television. Boris Nikolayevich, you announced today that the Commonwealth is ready for a long-term integration strategy. In your view, which elements of this strategy can be put into place as early as this year? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Well, it is a question not of elements, but of states. That is, as of today three states already more or less have all the coordinated documents needed for integration. They are Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. That is, they have the same legal foundation, the same regulations, and so on and so forth, no customs borders, no customs duties in trade with each other. In brief, they have a whole package of elements that lead to full integration. Another three states are preparing the paperwork to join in with this integration. They are Uzbekistan, Tajikistan [no third country mentioned].

[Korotchenya, prompting] And Kyrgyzstan. And Kyrgyzstan.

[Yeltsin] And Kyrgyzstan. Three states. We discussed this with Ukraine — which, incidentally, refers back to the answer about Ukraine. But for the time being, Ukraine does not want to join in the integration. It does not want to, although I tried very hard to convince Kuchma to go for integration. It would be the salvation of Russia and Ukraine, of both states, from the problems we have at present. And they have no fewer problems than we do.

[Korotchenya] INTERFAX, go ahead please.

[Unidentified correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, today you adopted a concept for resolving conflicts within CIS states. I think that is what it was called, that is how I wrote it down. What does it mean? Does it mean more, stronger, and more active coordinated measures in this respect? Will there be a joint initiative on the Karabakh conflict or other conflicts?

[Yeltsin] Yes, it means precisely collective action. But for every collective operation we must receive a UN mandate. There is a legal subtlety here. We had forgotten about that in the past, but then we remembered, and today we incorporated it into the decision. In every instance, if it is connected with a state and a peacekeeping or some other operation has to be conducted there, then we have to get a UN mandate. Only the United Nations can decide.

[Korotchenya] The questioner at microphone No. 5, please.

[Correspondent] BBC Russian Service [name indistinct] Are there any differences between the views of Russia and the Central Asian states on a settlement in Tajikistan? On, for example, the use of collective peacekeeping forces there? How, for example, can collective peacekeeping forces fight for one of the sides in Tajikistan?

[Yeltsin] We call for more states to take part in peacekeeping efforts there. They were going to expire on 1 January 1996, but we have just extended that to June 1996. I bear in mind Rakhmanov's assurances that by then he will reach an agreement with the opposition on following Russia's example and setting up a Conciliation Commission. We have a very strong Conciliation Commission, and when the authorities of state — parliament, the government, and so forth — cannot agree among themselves, the Conciliation Commission meets and resolves the issue. This commission also includes members of the opposition. That is the kind of Conciliation Commission they need to set up. Rakhmanov agreed.

Also, we need to hold a general assembly of all the Tajik peoples, where they can unburden themselves and discuss what is going on in their country. If that does not happen then June will come and go and all these conflicts on the border will continue, the fight with the opposition will continue, and we cannot hold Tajikistan by the hand forever, understand? We cannot do that. Our people, Russians, are dying out there. But we are implementing a decision made by the Council of the CIS Heads of State.

We cannot, since our people, citizens of Russia, are being killed there. But we are carrying out the decisions of the Council of the CIS Heads of State. So, of course, they agreed to extend them, and Rakhmanov gave his word to step up his activities now, including activities through the United Nations and through the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], so as to create two such bodies, to start more actively working with the opposition. We cannot, of course, allow ourselves to have such a leaky border, because people pass through it, they pass through (?Tevislan), and bring both weapons and drugs into our country, you understand, and bandits come in and anything you like — spies and so on. We cannot agree to that. So Tajikistan must become more actively involved, but there was general support today for the view that it is necessary to extend them and for a greater number of states to take part in these peacekeeping efforts.

[Korotchenya] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich. The question from microphone No. 3, please. Your question.

[Correspondent] [name indistinct], KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Boris Nikolayevich, in brief, much has already been said about Ukraine, but could you

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

make everything a little clearer? Was the proposal for demarcating the border accepted, and to what extent is account taken of the term, transparency of borders, which was originally devised? And perhaps you would be good enough to go into greater detail on the concept of the prevention of conflicts. Does it presuppose the deployment of some joint regulatory forces in various potentially dangerous regions, so to speak?

[Yeltsin] Right, the first was about borders, the border with Ukraine. We have a border agreement with Ukraine, so today Ukraine did not sign a general agreement — a general agreement on the border, since we have an agreement with Ukraine. But there is certainly no demarcation. We agreed...[pauses] The question was not discussed today, but, when we met yesterday, and I discussed these matters for several hours with Kuchma, we agreed to set up a special border commission to work out a precise proposal about where we go from here. Because that hinders Ukraine from joining the customs union. It is sustaining heavy losses because of that. And we receive a very large amount of vodka from Ukraine. We do not need it, we have got enough of our own. [hesitates] No, no, the second question. [indistinct voice from floor]

The second question. What this means is that each state has its own special forces to fight terrorism. And when we have to join together for some purpose or other, we discuss it and bring together a number of states. I do not think they all need to join in. We get together, obtain a UN mandate, and take part in some kind of joint operation.

[Korotchenya] Question from microphone No. 1. Or is it No. 2? No. 2, go ahead please.

[Correspondent] Me?

[Korotchenya] There is someone standing next to you.

[Correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, a question from the American TV company CNN. You said yesterday that Dudayev's military strongholds have to be destroyed without mercy, if it can be done without affecting civilians. And today you said in a similar vein that the fight against terrorism must be stepped up. Should we expect in the wake of your words a resumption of large-scale military action initiated by the federal forces in Chechnya? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] It will be a softly-softly affair. But those hideouts spotted by reconnaissance...[pauses] Because there are mountains of weapons and ammunition there, as it transpired in Pervomayskoye. They pose a threat, a huge threat. You could blow up the whole of Chechnya from just one such base. So the destruction of these staging posts will now get underway. They will be disarmed in accordance with the agreements. But a frontal war? No. There will not be one.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Svetlana, please. Your question.

[Correspondent Kalenkina] Svetlana Kalenkina, BELARUSKAYA DELOVAYA GAZETA. As is known, there are three states in the Commonwealth which, as it were, should serve as an example for their close union: Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan. Today there was a statement issued by Nursultan Nazarbayev in connection, well, with the statement of a few states regarding a denunciation, the possibility of a denunciation of the Belovezh Agreements. Belarus and the Belarusian leadership were clearly meant among these few states. It will be interesting to hear how you stand on this matter as it might somewhat change the alignment of forces. [passage indistinct, sound lost for 17 seconds]

[Korotchenya] ...It was sorted out by experts and everything that was connected with a return to the past was removed from there. Thus, your question, please.

[Correspondent Semenov] Radio Mayak, Yuliy Semenov. Boris Nikolayevich, the problem exists of the uneven progress of the reforms in various states of the Commonwealth and a lack of a tie-up between various types of economic structures that stand in the way of integration. You spoke of this today and suggested that the question of the stages and nature of economic reforms in the countries of the Commonwealth be discussed in principle. What was your colleagues' attitude to this? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] They agreed that some states are lagging behind the reforms in Russia, say, among other things, because they are late with their reforms, they are late with their legal base. For this reason they have now agreed that we need to align the legal base of the reform — everything: Taxes, tax deductions, etc., etc., matters of currency, matters of customs duties, well, in brief, so to speak, a whole set of legal matters, for the time being needs to be sorted out on paper so that it is possible to work together. You see, if we sort this out, if this succeeds, this is not some levelling-down. Russia has gone ahead and will go ahead. There will not be any giving up, you see, or sliding back. And I think even that line-up in parliament will understand. Because any rejection of reform now will be the death of Russia. The death.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. This news conference is approaching the end of its time.

[Yeltsin] Let us keep going for a little while. There are lots of people.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Korotchenya] Then we will do one question from each microphone, Boris Nikolayevich. So we will have five questions. Microphone No. 1, your question.

[Yeltsin] Anyone with an extra microphone, get it out now.

[Correspondent Lena Chernenko] National News Service, Lena Chernenko. Boris Nikolayevich, the hostages seized on the Avrasya ferry in the Turkish port of Trabzon contacted our agency this evening. The women asked for the hostages' and the terrorists' latest demands to be passed on to the Russian Government. They want the Russian Government to immediately contact the ship because the terrorists have dropped all their demands and are ready to let the hostages go if they are allowed to return to Chechnya. Will your latest words on the fight against terrorism have any effect on this issue? What will the Russian Government do?

[Yeltsin] First, we are in constant, constant communication with Turkey. Constant. Through the Foreign Ministry, through the forces structures, and the military. Constant communication. But as far as all these 50 bandits returning to Chechnya is concerned, that is a difficult question. They are citizens of Turkey. They are not from Chechnya. Although they are in essence Chechens and Abkhaz, they are actually Turks. The Turkish authorities were smart. They straight away found out who was in charge of the gang. Found out where she [not further specified] lives and arrested the entire family. Just like that. And the ringleader of the gang is now on the hook. He does not know what to do. That is the first thing.

Second, when they were boarding the ship every single one of them had a gun. Well, ports and airports usually have special gates that will not let you through [with a gun]. But they all got through and nobody even noticed, which boils down to sloppiness, pure and simple. We will be in touch again with the Turkish leadership to find out what they think, because we were not pleased with what they were doing. Either we join in and carry out our own operation...[pauses] Because we have got enough ships, aircraft, and helicopters there and they are all on the alert. All the coastal forces, all the border guards throughout the entire region are on the alert. At any moment they can fly out to the ferry. In brief, we are following this one very closely indeed so that there is no tragedy.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Second microphone, please.

[Correspondent Shtorkh] Andrey Shtorkh, ITAR-TASS. If you will allow me, Boris Nikolayevich, I have two questions. The first is a very brief one. Was the issue of the next meeting of heads of state discussed and was a decision made on where and when it will be held?

[Yeltsin] It will be held in Moscow on Friday 17 May.

[Shtorkh] Thank you, and my second question. As is well known, whether it be in the economy or in politics, a major role is played by individuals. This is the human factor that has been spoken of. I think that my journalist colleagues and your president colleagues that you have just been meeting will be quite interested to know who is to replace Anatoliy Borisovich Chubays in the government, since integration depends to a great degree on Russia, I think, and Chubays did a lot for integration. Do you already have a successor for his post?

[Yeltsin] There are several people. It is now necessary to choose one of them. Chubays, of course, accomplished a lot that is positive, but at the same time, he also made many mistakes. For this reason people are embittered against him. Chubays is responsible for the fact that only 10 percent voted for Russia Is Our Home. If Chubays has been removed prior to the elections, the figure would have been 20 percent. What a lot of people have been deceived! He was not personally to blame, but banks, commercial structures, and so on have been issuing securities and then going bankrupt, and people have ended up with nothing after handing over their last money. Are they likely to be indifferent to Chubays? Never! This is why the decision was made. It has also been difficult for me. We have worked together in quite a harmonious way. However, in certain matters and specifically regarding the auctions, what a lot of blunders have also been made! You know, our major enterprises were being sold for just a song. No, that cannot be forgiven! Well, it will not, of course, be easy to replace him with someone his equal. He is an intelligent and bright person. I cannot, of course, name names. That is not the done thing.

[Korotchenya] Microphone No. 4 please!

[Unidentified correspondent] Azerbaijan Television. Boris Nikolayevich, do you not feel that in 1995 the CIS demonstrated its helplessness in the face of regional, communal, and ethnic conflicts? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] We only made the decision today. We never even used to have a decision to jointly act against such conflicts. Against terrorism, to pool our efforts. It was only today that we unanimously agreed to pass this decision. And from now on we will be acting in concert.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Your microphone, please. Your question. [woman's voice from floor, indistinct]

[Yeltsin, aside] Yes, that lady there.

[Korotchenya, aside] That is right.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Unidentified correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, yesterday you held a series of bilateral meetings at which there was talk of Russia stepping up its role in resolving conflicts in member-states of the CIS. Could you give some detail on this? What will Russia do in this direction? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I have already said something about Tajikistan, that the Tajikistan leadership has been asked to show more activity and work harder with the opposition to set up a Conciliation Commission and hold the first congress of all the Tajikistan people. Because this passivity and permanent hope that our peacekeepers will stay on even longer, and we will get together to extend their stay again in May and then extend it again. We told Rakhmanov today, no more extensions. You have got six months, off you go. Anything we can do to help, we will.

As regards Abkhazia and Georgia, all countries decided to take a more active part here. And they signed a ruling today, a ruling of principle, which Shevardnadze asked for, to impose sanctions on Abkhazia until it agrees to unity with Georgia. Let it be an autonomous republic with plenty of independence, let it sign an agreement with Georgia as we do not only with our republics, but also regions and territories. These are the sanctions: A ban on taking weapons there, and so on and so forth. Transport, in general a whole list of measures to be taken.

[Korotchenya] Your question, please. Switch on the third microphone.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you. ABC, American TV company. Boris Nikolayevich, you devoted a lot of time today to discussing the fight against terrorism both with your colleagues and during this news conference. Could you say, as Russian president, how would you assess the completion of this main operation to combat terrorism?

[Yeltsin] However much the newspapers might lash out at the military — they let fly all sorts of words at them — disgrace etc. — I cannot agree with this. I held them responsible for the first stage — how did the bandits penetrate into Kizlyar? The military are to blame for this.

As for the operation in Pervomayskoye, everything was very... [pauses] The talks were going on for six days and they were preparing the operation for six days. Discussions were under way. The Defense Ministry was involved. The district commander and others were involved. Two major ministers were in charge. And Defense Minister Pavel Grachev kept in touch by telephone all the time. In short, the operation was planned and carried out correctly.

It is not nice to say such things about those killed, but 24 men out of 120 means the losses were minimal. And we do not know yet, we think we will probably find more: Perhaps some hid somewhere or went to neighboring villages. Suddenly today we found seven militiamen who were taken hostage at the checkpoint. We found them safe and sound. They escaped when the shooting began and we hoped this would happen: We were shelling not the houses, but the streets, and we were also firing smoke canisters so that the hostages, at least some of them, because old people could not, but most of them did escape and we rescued others: Our servicemen rescued about 60 people. Therefore, I disagree and I will categorically deny allegations that the military are good for nothing and cannot do anything.

Come on, comrades, sorry, ladies and gentlemen! [laughter] The word slips out sometimes — old habits die hard. After all, it is not such a bad word.

[Korotchenya] Thank you. Microphone No. 3, the lady who has been so actively seeking to put a question. Go ahead.

[Unidentified correspondent] Boris Nikolayevich, Russia is putting forward a new initiative to resolve the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. What is Russia specifically proposing to resolve this conflict, and on what basis do you see it being resolved? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] Geydar Aliyev spent three and a half hours yesterday with Yevgeniy Primakov, our new foreign minister. They discussed possible options in very great detail. After that, I spoke to Geydar Aliyev. We also spent about an hour together discussing this issue. Interest has died off a little of late. They agreed not to shoot at each other.

[Korotchenya] The truce.

[Yeltsin] Truce, yes, and then it went quiet. And the peacekeeping forces, including Russian ones, became bored. It has to be said. They lost interest. So I have promised that we will get things going again. Our new foreign minister — he is a man of his word — is going to bring the positions together. Azerbaijan proposes a certain status for Nagorno-Karabakh, that of autonomous republic. There is nothing higher than that. In Russia as well, autonomous republic is the highest available status. But they in Abkhazia, where do you call it, Nagorno-Karabakh say, that is not enough for us [sentence as heard]. Give us more status. I do not know, what kind of higher status? United States of America, or what? In brief, we have to bring them together and reconcile them, we have to keep in touch with them all

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the time and not let go, not let go and leave them by themselves. When you are left to your own devices you always start thinking bad thoughts. But when you are in company your thoughts cheer up.

[Korotchenya] Thank you, Boris Nikolayevich. Microphone No. 4, please, your question.

[Correspondent] Thank you. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA [name indistinct]. Boris Nikolayevich, Russian laws provide for compensating the population for their money deposits, defining certain categories of persons. However, this issue is currently being brought into line with the agreements that have been signed, in particular concerning the burial of veterans. Tell me please, can Russia put forward an initiative to index-link the population's deposits to help with the burial of veterans? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] I think it can and should do so, and this must be done this year without fail. It must not be forgotten and if I do decide to take part in the election campaign, I must write this down and I must say that we will resolve this issue.

[Unidentified voice] Boris Nikolayevich, shall we regard the question from microphone No. 2 as the last question, as we have covered the lot?

[Correspondent Grishan] Thank you. I am Grishan from Belarusian TV. Boris Nikolayevich, please tell us how the presence of the left-wing majority in the Belarusian and Russian parliaments can, in your view, affect the strengthening of the CIS? In general, how do you assess the mutual relations within the CIS between Russia and Belarus? Is there a potential for a further strengthening of ties? Thank you.

[Yeltsin] To begin with, I assess our cooperation with Belarus very positively. We began our integration with them and this process became rather active. We generally have frequent government- and president-level meetings. To be brief — a businesslike contact is being maintained all the time. As for parliaments, yes, we have now had this wave, in other CIS states too, a wave of leaning to the Left, as it were. Well, I must say that, in the first place, we do not have a majority of communists, no. After all, the spokesman Ivan Rybkin was toppled because Yabloko, working under democratic slogans, linked forces with the communists, this is what has happened. If Yabloko had not supported the communists, Seleznev would not have been elected. One simply no longer has the strength to even become indignant.

[Korotchenya] Esteemed representatives of the press, allow me, on behalf of you all, to thank Boris Nikolayevich for coming to our news conference and for replying to all the questions put by you, to wish him good health and successes.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. [applause]

[Korotchenya] Thank you all.

Yeltsin, Nazarbayev Discuss CIS Customs, Payment Unions

LD2001112796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1111 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev on Saturday discussed a CIS customs union and a payment union, Yeltsin's press service said on Saturday.

The two presidents also discussed bilateral relations. "The sides also spoke out in favour of creating joint financial and industrial groups as soon as possible which would implement big economic projects," according to the press service.

CIS: Lukashenka Condemns Kazakh Statement Denouncing Restoration of USSR

LD1901185596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 19 Jan 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The opening of political talks at the CIS summit in Moscow was marked with heated argument. Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said he was categorically against putting on the summit's agenda the proposal that calls for restoration of the USSR be condemned. The proposal has been put forward by Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The Kazakh president said some politicians had recently called for denouncing the Belaya Vezha agreements and restoring a reformed Soviet Union. He said he disapproved of such calls.

"Restoration of a Soviet-type country at present is impossible without violence. Such attempts undermine stability and sovereignty, put under question economic and social achievements and contradict the long-term interests of the CIS countries," Nazarbayev said. He stressed that this was Kazakhstan's official stand.

Nazarbayev said he saw calls for urgently restoring the USSR as "irresponsible." Such calls "may sow discord, provoke violence and birth many serious problems," the Kazakh president said. "That is why it seems necessary that such statements should receive a relevant evaluation among the CIS countries," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Nazarbayev also said he thought it necessary to take further measures for making the Commonwealth more efficient. He urged the CIS countries to support the idea of forming the customs union advanced by Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan. The customs union should be regarded as an important stage for merging economic potential of the three countries and creating a unified market, Nazarbayev said. "We proceed from the belief that there is no alternative to integration on Eurasian space," he said.

Kazakhstan "is ready for developing integration within the CIS but will never give up its independence and sovereignty," Nazarbayev said. Every CIS country is an independent actor on the international arena and cooperation should be based on equal cooperation, he said.

However, the Belarusian president said the "essence of such a statement fails to correspond with the spirit of relations within the CIS." "If we discuss this statement, people will not understand us," he said. "Nobody seizes sovereignty from anybody" in the CIS, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said.

Lukashenka said he was bewildered with the move by the Kazakh president who had delivered the statement in the Kremlin instead of making it during his visit to Minsk on January 17.

The Russian president, who chaired the summit, promised to take into consideration Lukashenko's position when discussing the statement made by the Kazakh president.

Lukashenka: Belarus Opposed Abkhazia Agreement at CIS Summit

LD1901231796 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2027 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Denis Perkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Belarus had weighed everything carefully when it came to voting on purely military matters connected with Tajikistan, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today by Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka at the airport before his flight home. He was commenting on the results of today's meeting of the CIS Heads of State.

We adopted a special position and did not support the statement and agreement on Abkhazia, he said. When we discussed the question of peacekeeping forces, the president went on to say, I declared that Belarus will never send its soldiers on to foreign soil.

Kuchma Puts Ukraine's National Interests First at CIS Summit

LD1901210096 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1855 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow — Ukraine did not take part in the discussion on military issues that were discussed at the CIS summit in the Kremlin, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said at a news conference today in the Ukrainian embassy in Moscow, a special UNIAN correspondent reports.

According to the president, in connection with the fact that Ukraine at the time did not sign the CIS Charter, the Ukrainian delegation refrained from discussing the issue of adopting Commonwealth symbols.

Leonid Kuchma also noted that Ukraine did not sign an agreement on forming a customs or a payments union. "At the moment this is not the main issue," he said.

Kuchma said that the issue of the hostages on the Avrasya ferry was not discussed at the meeting. However, because of the fact that there were Ukrainians among the hostages, the commission that was formed in Istanbul, headed by its mayor, includes an adviser from the Ukrainian embassy in Turkey.

Touching on the remarks by the Russian president that Ukraine is refusing to join the process of integration, Kuchma said: I consider that cooperation should be conducted on equal terms and we should discuss such issues from the viewpoint of the state's national interest."

In his assessment of the role of the Commonwealth, Kuchma stressed that at present the CIS was fulfilling a consultative role and that bilateral cooperation was the most effective way. He added that he was planning a visit Armenia in the near future.

During the summit agreements were reached on Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk's visit to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Kuchma Evaluates CIS as 'Consultative Body'

LD1901180296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX-Ukraine) — "I evaluate the CIS primarily as a consultative body," Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma told a press conference for Ukrainian journalists in Moscow after the conclusion of the summit of heads of CIS states.

According to Kuchma, bilateral relations between CIS countries are more efficient. However, "any unification is also positive," Kuchma said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The January 19 summit of heads of CIS states "was held under the flag of the elections of the Russian president," according to Kuchma. All the presidents of CIS states with whom he met in Moscow told him about the significance of these elections. "The major issue for each of the CIS state leaders is which route Russia will pursue in the future," Kuchma said.

He also expressed support for the declaration of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev regarding the statements of separate politicians who condemn the collapse of the USSR. "We have prepared a statement in support of this declaration, however we have only taken it into consideration in order not to worsen the situation," Kuchma said, and explained that "Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka opposed this statement."

Kuchma declined accusations of Ukraine's unwillingness "to integrate with Russia."

"Ukraine strives for equal cooperation with Russia, primarily with Russia, however, there is a question on in what way and at the expense of what," he said. At the first stage, we should examine these relations from the point of view of Ukraine's national interests, Kuchma said.

He also backed the decision of the heads of CIS states concerning the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. "It was necessary to adopt this decision precisely today."

He made arrangement for several visits during bilateral talks with leaders of several CIS states, he said. In particular, Kuchma will visit Armenia in May 1996, and Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev will come to Kiev. Ukraine's Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk will pay official visits to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

CIS: Ukraine, Moldova, Russia Confirm Dniester's Status

LD1901174496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX-Ukraine) — Russian, Ukrainian, and Moldovan Presidents Boris Yeltsin, Leonid Kuchma and Mircea Snegur intend to render all-round assistance in rapid signing of the document which determines Transdniester's special status as a constituent part of the single and territorially integral Republic of Moldova.

They signed a statement to this effect in Moscow Friday, the press service of the Ukrainian president told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

Moscow and Kiev expressed readiness to be states-guarantors to observe Transdniester's status.

The presidents of the three countries are proceeding from the need to solve the conflict in Moldova's Transdniester region as soon as possible and confirm their adherence to these goals, the document says.

At present there are appropriate conditions in Moldova to entirely negate the consequences of the conflict by means of negotiations, exclusively by peaceful means, implementing principles and provisions of the agreements reached earlier between leaders of Moldova and Transdniester.

The presidents of the three countries approved the role of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] mission in Moldova and confirmed "the special significance of Russia's and Ukraine's activity in settling the conflict."

CIS Leaders Approve Air Defense Concept

LD1901205296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — CIS leaders unanimously approved a concept for the defense of CIS air space on Friday.

The Russian presidential press office told INTERFAX that the document proposes the main directions for the creation of a single air defense system, the main principles of CIS air defense, military and technical aspects of its improvement, and the main directions for the training of air defense forces.

The concept envisages that at the first stage of its implementation CIS states will create a legal basis ensuring the integrity of the CIS air space and secure functioning of the united system of air defense. It also envisages an improvement of the system of air traffic control in the Baltic, Black Sea and Caspian areas, creation of air defense systems in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the adoption of a program to equip CIS countries' air defense forces with armaments.

The final goal of the measures is to create a wholesome system of air and space defense, the press office reported.

CIS Summit Approves Conflict Prevention, Settlement Guidelines

LD1901145496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Heads of CIS states approved guidelines for conflict prevention and settlement on the territory of CIS member-states at their Friday session in Moscow.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The approved document says that heads of CIS states remain of the opinion that "unresolved disputes and contradictions, and resulting armed conflicts, undermine the grounds for the existence of the CIS, touch upon the vital interests of every member of the Commonwealth of Independent States and pose a real threat to international peace and security."

Maintenance of peace and stability is an inseparable precondition for the existence of the CIS, which ensures economic and sociopolitical development both of each state and of the Commonwealth as a whole.

The guidelines determine general approaches by CIS member-countries to conflict prevention and settlement, and the possibility of joint actions to resolve newly-appearing disputes and contradictions.

Simultaneously the document examines joint activity to prevent and to settle conflicts, including multilateral peacemaking operations.

Taking into consideration that these conflicts pose a threat not only to regional but to global security, heads of states spoke in favor of more active participation by the U.N. and OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] in settling conflicts on the territory of the CIS.

According to heads of CIS states, it is necessary to give preference to preventive political and diplomatic efforts, which are able to prevent the appearance of conflicts, using joint measures and authority of the CIS.

A corresponding official address by a state whose security and sovereignty appears to be under threat may serve as a basis for these joint actions.

Kyrgyz President Satisfied With CIS Summit Results

LD1901212896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2041 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By Denis Perkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Kyrgyzstan is satisfied with the results of Friday's CIS summit meeting, Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev told ITAR-TASS on Friday.

"I think, the summit was successful for all of its participants. Two major packages were under discussion. One of them concerned the strengthening of our integration through a CIS customs union," Akayev said.

"This issue was discussed very much. It was agreed today that Russia, Belarusia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will sign a customs treaty next February," he said.

As for the other package of issues concerning safety and stability in the CIS, "we have never had any problems," he said.

"We fruitfully cooperate with the Russian Border Guard Service in preventing drug trafficking and arms smuggling from Afghanistan through Tajikistan," he said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yeltsin Comments on CIS Summit, Terrorism, Ukraine

LD1901180096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — The CIS summit considered 24 issues in Moscow Friday, President Boris Yeltsin announced at a news conference after the meeting.

The key point was "closer integration within the Commonwealth", Yeltin said, adding that although not all countries accept this integration, "half have already signed documents on giving an impetus to the integration process".

"Gradually all states will join this process," Yeltsin predicted.

The heads of state found it necessary to express their views on the question of recreating the former USSR. All agreed that "they won't debate this issue since it does not confront them", Yeltsin said, noting that "by raising this question, one can sow discord, provoke violence, and cause many serious problems to breed."

"Commonwealth states do not intend to give up their independence, and no one will force them to do so, no matter how hard the communists call for it," Yeltsin said, stressing that the only way to closer unity is more integration within CIS.

Russia has again been trusted to lead the CIS Heads of State Council. "This trust has been given for the next six months in advance, since I have not yet given consent to be nominated to the post of president for a second term," Yeltsin remarked.

On the events in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye, he said that final conclusions could be expected in two-three days.

Yeltsin remphasized the resolve of all countries to fight terrorism, describing this unanimity as unprecedented.

"Some countries regarded this as none of their business. Now they realize that if no measures are adopted against terrorism, the problem will face them for sure. It should be made extremely clear to Dudayev [the Chechen separatist leader] that his international terrorism will see his end," the president stressed.

Asked about his recent meeting with Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma, Yeltsin said they had actually resolved all issues in preparation for signing a comprehensive treaty in Kiev in March.

The endorsed concept of preventing and settling conflicts on the territory of CIS member states provides for more vigorous concerted efforts toward this end, Yeltsin said in a reply to a question from INTERFAX, adding, however, that an appropriate U.N. mandate is essential before any action is taken.

"Now, in each separate case, if a peace-keeping or other type of operation needs to be carried out in a state, a U.N. mandate should be taken," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin To Boost Peace Efforts in Karabakh

LD1901144096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1332 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] MOSCOW, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Having acknowledged that after signing the Nagorno-Karabakh armistice agreement Russia's interest in this problem "has subsided," Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised today to boost Russia's peacekeeping efforts in that area.

At the news conference at the end of the meeting of the CIS heads of state he said it was necessary to "set the flywheel spinning." Azerbaijan's President Heydar Aliyev had discussed this problem yesterday with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, and then the Russian and Azerbaijani presidents discussed this issue for an hour, he said.

Yeltsin described Primakov as a very responsible man and said that Primakov would visit Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh "constantly, once a fortnight, in order to bring the sides closer."

Yeltsin To Visit Ukraine To Sign 'Major' Treaty

LD1901142696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will make an official visit to Ukraine to sign a major political treaty between Moscow and Kiev in March this year, Yeltsin reported today at a news conference on the results of the sitting of the Council of Heads of State of the CIS countries.

The Russian president, in response to a question from a Ukrainian correspondent, categorically denied the possibility that "secret plans" by Russia directed against Ukraine might exist. He said that virtually all the problems were resolved during his meeting with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on Wednesday [17 January] and that only a few questions remained to be agreed.

Speaking generally about the long-term strategy of integration between the CIS countries, Yeltsin noted that it would be implemented by individual groups of states. "Three states already have all the documents for integration agreed, that is Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan,"

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

he stressed. "This means there will be a single legislative base, identical standards, and no customs barriers or duty," the president noted. Another three states — Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, the head of state said, are prepared to join this integration process. However, Ukraine, the Russian president said, "does not yet want to embark on integration," although Yeltsin, in his own words, "tried his best to convince Kuchma to start integration."

"Integration between Russia and Ukraine will rescue both states from the problems that we have today," the Russian president noted.

Kazakh President on 'Impossibility' of Restoring USSR

LD2101001196 Moscow NTV in Russian 1635 GMT 19 Jan 96

["Hero of the Day": Interview with Kazakh President Nazarbayev at the Kazakh Embassy in Moscow by Leonid Parfenov — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Good evening. This is the latest edition of the "Hero of the Day" program to air. A sitting of the Council of Heads of CIS states was held in Moscow today. One of the highlights of the sitting was the curt statement by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan about the harm to and the impossibility of restoring the USSR. The Kazakh president received our film crew at 1735 today in his Moscow residence in the Kazakhstan Embassy.

[Begin recording] [Parfenov] Mr. President, what prompted your statement, why did you utter it at precisely this moment?

[Nazarbayev] You will recall that here in Moscow two years ago, at the Moscow State University named after Lomonosov, I first aired the idea of a Eurasian union on the territory of the former Soviet Union, made up of all those who wished it. This proposal was drawn up and the idea met with a wide response but, as you will recall, my colleagues did not accept it in that form at the time. It was decided to take cognizance of the proposal and make use of it in further actions toward integration within the CIS. Two years have passed, the CIS has changed and we have missed the opportunity to implement the union in the form in which I proposed it. It has not all been in vain: After I voiced my idea, the integration processes became stronger and everyone was trying to make themselves out to be an integrationist. [passage omitted]

You will also recall that when passions were running high in the election campaign, politicians came out, some of them almost violently, calling for the former Soviet Union to be restored and within its old borders, at that.

[Parfenov] And you now want to disown such an idea so that it will not turn out that you suggested a Eurasian union and then people saying you wanted to end up restoring the Soviet Union!

[Nazarbayev] Exactly! [passage omitted]

This desire to restore what used to be, using all means possible, could frighten people away from this new integration. Now we have lost these two years, and after two years disunity has gone deep into each state, statements and aspirations like these to denounce things, to unite things — well, such cases do exist in the world, one can use military means to try and restore a union, whoever is strongest might perhaps achieve success to start with but that sort of structure will not last for long.

So this is self-delusion. The first part of my statement therefore stated that Kazakhstan declares that it is dangerous to have and to disseminate an opinion of this sort, and to wish to implement it is even more dangerous for the CIS states; it is fraught with bloodshed between them. And the second part of the statement advocated strengthening the integration processes around the nucleus which has now grown up — Kazakhstan, Russia, and Belarus.

[Parfenov] Why do you think the president of Belarus, Lukashenka, reacted so stormily to your statement?

[Nazarbayev] Well, in the first place, Lukashenka is Lukashenka! I think he just hadn't read what was said there. I do not argue with him — I would argue with others but I do not argue with him.

Then, when we had examined everything and taken note of everything, it was adopted with no problem.

[Parfenov] It was your agenda which Lukashenka was against to start with?

[Nazarbayev] Yes. It was included in the agenda. All observations were taken into account. And all heads of state took note of it.

[Parfenov] Do you think that attitudes to your idea of a Eurasian union have changed now...

[Nazarbayev, interrupting] Whose, mine?

[Parfenov] No, of your colleagues, the leaders of the CIS states. Even if it might be an erroneous idea in that form.

[Nazarbayev] Let us talk about this: Since I expressed that idea we have finally created an Interstate Economic Committee, which came from there, and we have finally

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

signed documents on an economic union, on a common court for our Commonwealth and, further, there is the agreement between three states for a customs' union. Today, we signed a document conceptualizing a payment union. Do you understand — that is excellent progress. But it jars upon me when: "Unifying processes; integration, the drawing closer together of economies and the creation of a common economic space among our countries; and the drawing closer together of the peoples and their unhindered movement from one state to another, not differentiating between them by passport" — when this is used in political campaigns. When a political campaign has begun, everybody begins to make use of it. As soon as a political campaign is finished, everybody begins to say: "This is what I am against." But that's a serious matter. Why? After all, the people also see that ad hoc use should not be made of it. The integration of the economy must be dealt with seriously. Any future consortium may be built upon that basis.

[Parfenov] I want to quote an excerpt from an interview given by you a year ago. You said: "Every time a meeting between heads of the CIS ends, I hear that more was expected of it." Was the present Moscow meeting the same?

[Nazarbayev] Exactly, 100 percent the same.

[Parfenov] What were you expecting and what, in the end, was the outcome — if you expected more and despite that got less?

[Nazarbayev] [sighing] Speaking sincerely, before the big political events in Russia, I expected that Russia would put forward new concrete proposals on that issue. What can be done next in the remaining six months before the presidential elections, for instance? There is very little time, practically none at all. Perhaps we will be able to — and that is not such a simple matter — but nevertheless, we will perhaps be able to take Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, or somebody else, into the customs' union as well. But, for instance, Russia and my country worked for a year on that. That involves bringing customs legislation closer together. That is single tariffs. That is a single approach to third countries which are not in the customs union. A great deal of time is needed for that. And I think to myself: What else can we do to further integration over those six months? Practically nothing. Therefore, there is complete dissatisfaction with that sitting. We examined 12 questions. As you saw we argued over Georgia's proposal on Abkhazia. We argued over the peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan. These matters are known to everyone. We did not examine anything else.

[Parfenov] Do you not sometimes get the feeling that it was a sort of still-born infant? Six hundred agreements have been concluded — that is a huge figure. Which of them are operating? One gets the feeling nevertheless that there is still inertia. We are simply unable to run very far away from each other yet by dint of the fact that we have been living apart for only four years but we lived together longer.

[Nazarbayev] Time and events will pass. We will all grow wiser, myself included. We will get used to all of that and when you begin to think: "What might have been after the Belovezhskaya Agreement when a unified country collapsed?" I am now coming to the conclusion that it is a good thing that there is the CIS at least where we can meet. If there was nothing, it is difficult to predict how events would develop. Therefore, once again, I want to return to the fact that centers, or cores, are beginning to arise from my Euro-Asia project. There are three states — Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus. You know that in our region there is Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. They are developing, seeing that this is useful, that this is beneficial. The economies have begun to work. People have begun to see concrete results. If these two centers unite, something concrete will be created which does not take away anyone's independence or sovereignty but will begin to work for the good of all. But let's recall again the scheme of the Western European Union. Why cannot we work the way they do?

[Parfenov] Do you think that the EEC is the optimum, the model for which we should strive?

[Nazarbayev] We are not even close today to the mutual relations which exist in the EEC. You know that. There is the European Parliament there. There is the European Government there. All export quotas are agreed there. They agree production output among themselves and that is striven for in the interests of all states. That is the first economic benefit. In the second place, all 12 states of Western Europe which belong to the European Union consider themselves to be absolutely equal: Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, France. We have not attained such understanding and the main reason why integration has not happened for all these years is that small states are afraid of big states. And big states don't do anything to win more trust. Yeltsin made a speech today: If a politician said something on Russia's part, tell us and we will tell him. But how much has been said over that time? How many presidents have been called all sorts of names but neither the Foreign Ministry, nor the Russian Government have said that we, as the government, have nothing to do with that. This is how things are done in civilized states. There is none of that. Therefore, I think

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that Russia has a great role to play in the process of integration. It may become the driving force for...

[Parfenov tries to interrupt but his words are indistinct]

[Nazarbayev] ...unifying equal, truly fraternal states which trust each other. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] Speaking on our program on Tuesday [16 January], Ukraine President Kuchma said that he saw the main reason for the lack of integration as being Russia's imperial policy. Do you share the opinion of your colleague?

[Nazarbayev] Well, that term "imperial" has been exploited enough! I do not consider the Soviet Union to be an empire. But there really was a Russian, Czarist empire because there are signs as to what is an empire, what is... [changes thought]. We were more like a federation, all the same, especially in the last, post-Stalinist period, for instance, of the union republics. Therefore, how many times can Russia be accused of imperialist policy? But when things which are hard to understand begin to happen between our states, then you start thinking. I'll give an example to illustrate what I'm saying. How much paper and ink have been used up?: Well, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan want to lead the oil pipelines through Turkey, across the Mediterranean Sea, bypassing Russia. Nobody has asked the question — Why do such problems arise? Why does Russia, and why do the oil and gas workers of Russia who know perfectly well what benefit there is to be had from transporting across Russia oil and gas and other resources, and at the same time, what a battle each of these republics wages to obtain quotas and permits for these energy carriers. [sentence as heard] As you know, I was a member of [Nikolay] Ryzhkov's government. In 1984 I was the chairman of the government of Kazakhstan. I know that then the Soviet Union extracted 628 tonnes of oil. Today, Russia extracts about 300 [value not specified], I think. So where are these oil pipelines? Where have they got to? Why were they not given to us? And then any question becomes superfluous. Incidentally, these pipelines will not operate through a Caucasus corridor or through Turkey unless Kazakhstan's oil is piped along them. There will not be anything. There will not be anything to fill up with. I am saying that to everybody openly. If Karashaganak gas which is near Orenburg, is processed at the Orenburg plant, is turned into condensate, and then Russia pays us less than the cost price of that gas — let's say if the world price of gas is 70 [currency unspecified] and we are paid a third of that — why then should we extract that gas? It should be closed. And the Orenburg Gas Refinery stops production along with it. This is where all this talk comes from and not from imperialist ambitions. It is unclear why Russia is not doing such a profitable thing, well, if not for our sake, for the sake of Russia itself!

[Parfenov] Did you sense any reproach in what [Yevgeniy] Primakov said about his new priorities being exclusively mutual relations with the CIS?

[Nazarbayev] I am very glad about that. [Andrey] Kozyrev and I spoke about this on several occasions and now there is understanding. You see, we all thought that we would be joining the European home but we weren't expected there. Then we thought that we would be joining the Pacific, the Asiatic house, but we were not expected there either. That has just been understood now. We will be expected there if we are strong together here. That is the crux of the matter. I think that the time to understand that has come and if Primakov works actively with the CIS states, that will be to the benefit of all. I welcome that.

[Parfenov] What do you think about the idea of republics uniting on the basis of Islam, which Karimov, your colleague from Uzbekistan, spoke of in one form or another? There were various ideas.

[Nazarbayev] My attitude to that is not positive at all. In the first instance, Kazakhstan will not accept such a form of existence of states as Islamic, let's say. The Kazakhs are Muslim. The Uzbeks are Muslims. The Russians, or Slavs, are Christians. We have all been separated from our spiritual roots. And, for instance, it is normal for us to return to our spiritual roots, Islam, that is, to human spirituality. There should be some kind of spiritual bulwark, shouldn't there? Or to our Turkish roots. We should remember our culture, our common history, but that does not mean that we should throw ourselves into the whirlpool of Islamic fundamentalism. Therefore, this is a totally unacceptable version for Kazakhstan. I do not accept it at all and that is why we are now defending the common frontier between Tajikistan and Afghanistan so as to ensure that those who are fighting on the border and whose clear aim is to build an Islamic state in Tajikistan do not get through. If that happens in Tajikistan, I think it will be very bad for the neighboring states. A seat of great tension will arise in that cauldron where over 50 million people live.

[Parfenov] One last thing. Do you think your effectiveness in seeking ideas comes from the special features of your biography — a Kazakh who was brought up in a Russian family, who then worked in a Russian collective in Karaganda — does that acute feeling come from there?

[Nazarbayev] [Passage omitted] I think now, thank goodness, Kazakhstan is rich in minerals which can be

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

exported today and we can earn money from them. What a situation the other republics are in! Therefore, the roots are that I understand clearly the economic benefit for all producers of goods of the normal, trusting, good integration of fraternal and friendly peoples who trust each other. The volume of production, the improvement of wages and people's lives comes from that. From that comes trust between people of different states and countries. From that comes calm in all states and the absence of conflict. These are the sources of my idea. I swear to God I had no political aims in that. I only saw that in multinational Kazkakhstan people were suffering. [passage omitted]

That is the main human source is that ordinary people should not be tied by frontiers, by passport checks, and a person should be given the citizenship of a country while he's deciding where he should live. A person will calm down in time. The whole matter lies in economic difficulties today, in migration itself, people leaving — everybody is seeking a good place to live.

EU Document Outlines Future Policies Toward Russia

MM1901143396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 7

[Report by Aleksandr Krasulin: "Europe Without Fences. The EU Has Formulated New Approaches in Its Relations With Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Spanish Ambassador to Russia Eugenio Bregolat Obiols has sent the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Editorial Office a letter. As representative of the country which holds the EU presidency for the next six months, he has deemed it necessary to send us the document "Future Relations between the EU and the Russian Federation," which was adopted by that organization's Council of Ministers last November. It reflects a new approach in the relations between this leading European structure and the Russian Federation.

The document emphasizes, in particular, that good relations between the EU and democratic Russia are of great importance to stability on the continent. Therefore the EU intends to establish strong partnership relations with the Russian Federation for the purpose of promoting the process of implementing democratic and economic reforms and strengthening peace and stability — which will help to avoid new lines of division in Europe and will ensure Russia's full integration into the society of free and democratic countries.

Concerning European security, the document's authors emphasize that the evolution of its structure must reflect the global and indivisible nature of the security system and be based on full cooperation with Russia. At the same time the EU will explain clearly to the Russian Federation the essence of the decisions that are adopted concerning the security of West Europe, particularly in the matter of NATO's expansion.

By way of a contribution to the implementation of reforms in the Russian Federation the EU intends to continue supporting the further development of democracy, pluralism of opinions, and also the legal system in the country and to strengthen the mass media's freedom. In addition, the EU intends to promote Russia's speedy admission to the Council of Europe.

In the sphere of economic cooperation the EU intends, in particular, to encourage the further development of economic reforms, Russia's integration into the international economy on the basis of market principles, its earliest possible admission to the WTO and then also to other international organizations of which it is not yet a member, and the Russian Federation's implementation of the healthy macroeconomic policy elaborated jointly with the IMF.

In addition, the EU is prepared to promote the creation in the future of a free trade zone between the Russian Federation and the EU embracing, in the main, all trade in commodities between them.

The EU will also promote the improvement of the legal regime governing economic activity in Russia, as well as gradually bringing Russian legislation into line with the community's existing legislation.

Based on the aforesaid aims and priorities, the Council of Ministers will draw up an action program, outlining both long-term and short-term measures.

IZVESTIYA Reports Washington's 'Mixed Signals' to Russia

MM2201092096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Mikheyev: "Washington Shows Moscow Iron Fist in Velvet Glove"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In response to the combat operation to free the hostages and punish the terrorists in the village of Pervomayskoye and to the very significant reshuffles in the government and the Kremlin, the U.S. Administration has seen fit to send Moscow what in diplomatic language is called a "mixed signal," expressing at one and the same time disappointment, concern, and even a veiled threat.

President Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed almost diametrically opposed views on the events at the heart of Russian politics on the same day.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The President expressed the hope that what REUTER calls the "rightward drift" will not negatively influence bilateral relations for long. The President essentially declined to take up the opportunity afforded to him to condemn the Kremlin for the large-scale use of military force in the resolution of the "hostage crisis." In an interview with the influential weekly U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, Bill Clinton did not pass judgment either on the expedience or the effectiveness of the military operation to free the civilians and law enforcement agency officers seized by the Chechen extremists.

In reply to a question on the degree to which Russia was likely to return to an "authoritarian form of government" in the light of the recent reshuffles, the U.S. President adopted a reassuring tone: "I think that it is very important not to get things out of proportion in this question.... Democracy still lies at the heart of Russia."

The tone of Warren Christopher's speech at the John Kennedy School of Management, which is part of Harvard University, was altogether different. Although it is clear that the Russian economy is yielding more and more to the laws of the market and the holding of free elections has become a routine matter, the secretary of state noted, "Russia has still not overcome the ruinous consequences of seven decades of communism, which are manifested in crime, corruption, and poverty." Which is why, Christopher stated, the final transformation of Russia, which is being conducted under the banner of a rejection of communism, is still "not guaranteed."

Two days before his boss's lecture at Harvard, an official spokesman of the U.S. Department of State publicly advised not to attach too much importance to the changing of the guard that had taken place in the Russian corridors of power. But on this occasion, Christopher alluded to the fact that the replacement of Andrey Kozyrev by Yevgeniy Primakov as Russian diplomatic chief and the resignation of First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays were giving rise to fears in Washington about whether Moscow would continue to follow the course it had established.

The concern that permeated his words was backed up by an unequivocal warning: Only if the Kremlin continued in the future to follow the "path of reform" and "remained an advocate of international standards," could Russia count on its integration into and cooperation with "Western institutions," which is usually taken to mean such international financial organizations as the World Bank and the IMF.

Observers describe the secretary of state's assessment of the future prospects for Russia's development along Western lines as the "most pessimistic" in recent times. Looking forward to the Russian presidential elections in June, the U.S. secretary of state did not have anything negative to say about Boris Yeltsin, but he also failed to praise him as he did before, calling him an "outstanding reformer." Instead, Christopher emphasized that "Russians will have to make a responsible choice."

The divergence of Bill Clinton's and Warren Christopher's assessments of the Russian leadership could hardly be coincidental. In the age of mutual enmity and mistrust, commentators would have considered that Washington was threatening Moscow with an iron fist in a velvet glove. Most probably the Americans will want to satisfy themselves in person that there will be no radical changes in the political landscape. The secretary of state himself will take the first soundings during his meeting with the head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs planned for this February. However, he may be beaten to it by President Clinton who told the press of his intention to call Boris Yeltsin: "We must talk."

Moscow Notes U.S. Secretary of States's Remarks

LD2001215996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2148 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 21 (ITAR-TASS) — "Moscow has noted the U.S. willingness, expressed by the U.S. secretary of state in his speech at Harvard University on January 18, to conduct the policy of cooperation with Russia, expand the area of consent, find mutually acceptable decisions where the interests of the U.S. and Russia diverge and, on the whole, support the democratic policy of the Russian leadership," a Russian Foreign Ministry official told ITAR-TASS on Saturday.

In his speech, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed satisfaction with the way U.S.-Russian relations had been developing in the past years.

He said that from the very outset the Clinton Administration had acknowledged that the U.S. can ensure its national interests only by way of cooperation with Russia.

Its strategy has brought concrete positive results in ensuring the security of the American people. The country has considerably reduced its nuclear arsenals and ensured better protection of nuclear materials. Working with Russia, the U.S. has advanced its goal of reaching peace in Bosnia and the Middle East, Christopher said.

"Considering the special responsibility of our countries for international stability, the development of relations

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with the U.S. on the basis of equal and mutually beneficial partnership in accordance with the Hyde Park agreements reached by the two presidents meet our interests. This was confirmed at a recent press conference held by the minister," the Russian diplomat said.

Commander of Russian IFOR Troops Interviewed

MM2201102596 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 3

[Interview with Colonel General L.P. Shevtsov, first deputy chief of the Russian Federation General Staff Main Operations Directorate and deputy supreme commander of the multinational forces in Bosnia for Russian forces, by correspondent Nikita Shevtsov in Brussels; date not given: "Russian Servicemen in the Balkans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian parliament recently approved a decision on the participation of Russian troops in the operation to implement the peace agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In this connection our correspondent asked Colonel General L.P. Shevtsov, who is first deputy chief of the Russian Federation General Staff Main Operations Directorate and is at the same time, in relation to the Bosnia operation, fulfilling the functions of deputy supreme commander of the multinational forces for Russian forces, to tell us about our servicemen's role in this peacekeeping action.

[N. Shevtsov] Leontiy Pavlovich, how is the operation going in general?

[L. Shevtsov] As of today everything is going according to plan. Some 30,000 troops from NATO countries and states which are not members of that organization have already been dispatched to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The operation itself is due to last a year, and depending on the UN Security Council's decision it could be extended or brought to a close. As for the Russian contingent, 12 January saw the arrival in Bosnia of the first operational groups from the brigade and the groups responsible for safeguarding the reception of military transport aircraft at Tuzla airfield and railroad convoys.

[N. Shevtsov] Where will the Russian troops be stationed? There is a view that our servicemen are being channeled into the most dangerous sector of disengagement. The other view is that, on the contrary, they are being kept away from the most responsible sectors and will play no special role in the peacekeeping action. What is the real situation?

[L. Shevtsov] Geographically, our units will be stationed east of Tuzla and in regions close to the border with Yugoslavia. There will be Russian subunits on both sides of the demarcation line between the conflicting parties. One battalion will be stationed on Serbian territory and another on Bosnian territory, which will ensure the observance of the principle of impartiality. Let me note in this connection that the military commission formed will include, apart from Russian servicemen, representatives of all the conflicting parties. The brigade command will thus have the opportunity to hear any complaints or wishes, identify who violates the peace agreement, and determine what measures should be applied against him.

Our troops will be in regions occupied by the conflicting parties and defined in accordance with the agreements concluded in Dayton. There are only insignificant areas of territory that the sides have to concede to each other. All this minimizes the use of military force to implement the accords reached, and the degree of risk for Russian servicemen remains low. On this matter, in the course of talks with the NATO leadership, we took a principled stance, stating that our soldiers' lives must not be endangered. At the same time we control the Posavina corridor on the eastern side, and we patrol Brcko together with the Americans.

[N. Shevtsov] What is the numerical strength and composition of the Russian troop contingent?

[L. Shevtsov] Our brigade consists of two battalions with a total strength of 1,500 men. In all, along with the support, coordination, and communications groups, our servicemen's numbers amount to 1,600.

The battalions consist mainly of paratroopers from the Pskov and Ivanovo Air Force Divisions. They are reinforced with engineering equipment and subunits from the Volga Military District. Our servicemen are 90 percent contract men. They have concluded the relevant contracts with the Russian Federation Defense Ministry. Conscripts are sent to Bosnia on a volunteer basis and with their parents' permission. The brigade is ready to fulfill its task. The servicemen have undergone the necessary training. In material terms, they will have supplies up to UN standards.

[N. Shevtsov] Can you say how much the operation will cost Russia?

[L. Shevtsov] In the course of the year it is planned to spend 109.5 billion rubles and $18.8 million. The funds will be used extremely economically. Rear specialists with special powers will conclude contracts for the supply of food, fuel, and lubricants and for the provision of community services with the local authorities or with representatives of American bases and stores. Why, for instance, take flour, butter, and eggs, or coal and timber, from Russia if they can be acquired much more cheaply on the spot? We will buy whatever is to our advantage.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[N. Shevtsov] What will our servicemen's domestic conditions be like?

[L. Shevtsov] They will be billeted in former barracks and leisure homes and other residential premises. Nobody will be living in field conditions, in tents.

[N. Shevtsov] What is the status of the Russian continent?

[L. Shevtsov] The Russian separate brigade does not form part of any division. It has its own autonomous mission and collaborates with the American division stationed nearby. The Russian brigade's mission is set, through me, by the Supreme Command of the Multinational Forces for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[N. Shevtsov] Where will you be?

[L. Shevtsov] My permanent location will be the headquarters of the supreme commander of the multinational forces. From there I will travel regularly to Bosnia to monitor the fulfillment of agreements relating to the Russian contingent's part in the operation.

In conclusion I would like to say that the state has sent our servicemen not to carry out a classical military operation, but to implement a peace agreement voluntarily entered into by the conflicting parties. In this case Russia is fulfilling a special and honorable mission, and our soldiers and officers should be proud to take part in it. It is time to put an end to almost four years of war in civilized Europe.

Russian IFOR Troop Dispute Raises 'Equality' Issue

MM1901142696 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 3

[Article by Andrey Naryshkin of ITAR-TASS: "Red Light for the 'Russian Battalion'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The very first attempt by Russia and NATO to establish collaboration in settling the Yugoslav crisis proved, to put it mildly, unsuccessful. Having resolved more or less smoothly the question of how to incorporate our brigade into the primarily NATO Implementation Force (IFOR), the partners came up against the problem of the Russian units already deployed in Bosnia and Croatia. According to Russian diplomats, their counterparts have shown their fair share of stubbornness. Two Russian peacekeeping battalions are at the center of the conflict. The first is stationed in East Slavonia, the second is in the Serbian part of the Bosnian capital.

Even before the signing of the Dayton peace agreements the Russian side had raised the question of the withdrawal of "Rusbat-2" ["Russian Battalion-2"]: Its presence in a united Sarajevo had lost its former purpose. The most logical solution, in Moscow's view, would be for the battalion to return to its "former positions" — in East Slavonia. It was from there that it was sent to Sarajevo in February 1994 in order to prevent bloodshed there.

Russia would like to strengthen its peacekeeping presence in East Slavonia, since the fulfillment of the framework agreement signed at the end of last year on the status of this and two neighboring Serb-populated regions will significantly increase the burden on the "Rusbat-1" personnel. Reinforcements would be very useful, and it would be much quicker and cheaper to get them from Bosnia than from Russia.

That was where the problems began. The UN Secretariat, which is responsible for the implementation of the East Slavonia operation, came up against difficulties in manning a new 5,000-strong peacekeeping contingent, but would not give Moscow the "go-ahead" to move the battalion. "Rusbat-2" was stubbornly pushed in the other direction — back to Russia. On New Year's Eve they stopped supplying it with fuel, and on 7 January an order came in, via UN headquarters in New York, from the "Blue Helmets'" commander in chief, the French General Bernard Janvier, for the Russians to be taken off food supplies. When "Rusbat-2," after consultations with Moscow, stated that it is capable of reaching East Slavonia on its own fuel and rations, its commanding officer was told frankly: Don't go. The new order from the command of the UN forces and IFOR was unequivocal: Proceed to Yugoslavia through the city of Brcko, leaving some of your equipment there for the Russian brigade.

Moscow was not pleased by this disdainful UN attitude. However, attempts to make our partners "backtrack" met with no great success. Even Moscow's threat not to consider future requests for the expansion of our participation in the East Slavonia settlement did not help.

Kofi Annan, special representative of the UN secretary general, put his cards on the table. On 14 January a letter from him reached the Russian Federation's embassy in Zagreb, containing the "verdict": "In the light of current plans for the UN international forces, the presence of a reinforced Russian contingent is not required, and the battalion should therefore be sent back to Russia as quickly as possible."

Russian diplomats see one reason for this decision in the stance of the temporary UN administration which is being set up in Serb-inhabited regions of Croatia. It is headed by retired American General Klein, whose

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ardent desire, apparently, is to rely on familiar Western structures (in this case the Belgian battalion stationed in Baranja). The second "hidden factor" is the NATO contingent that is already deployed in Bosnia and Croatia, which, while having no formal connection with East Slavonia, is beginning to influence all aspects of the regional conflict.

As Russian diplomats point out, Moscow does not consider the problem closed, and not only because "Rusbat-1" really does need reinforcements. Doubts have arisen in general as to whether our partners are adhering to the principle of equality on a question that may not be strategic, but is certainly highly indicative. Is a "reinforced Russ n presence" undesirable to NATO only in former Yugoslavia, or is it a question of the general approach to our "Partnership for Peace"? According to some reports, in the quest for an answer Moscow is this time prepared to show persistence. Up to and including the withdrawal of the remaining battalion from East Slavonia.

Yeltsin Signs Decree Levying Tax on Ukrainian Goods

LD1901193996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 19 Jan

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — President Yeltsin signed a decree on the imposition of excises on goods coming into Russia from Ukraine on Friday, the presidential press service has reported.

The document aims to "keep the Russian market of imported goods stable," at a time when Ukraine has abolished an appropriate domestic tax.

Until recently, Russia levied no duty on imports from any CIS country. "Exporters of these goods pay an appropriate tax in their country," a State Customs Committee (GTK) official has explained, noting that a similar tax levying procedure applies to Russian exports to neighboring states. Although "such a mechanism is referred to in the accords, signed by CIS member-states," Ukraine has been flouting the documents, the source said. He added that Ukraine has been continuing to impose excise duties on Russian goods introduced into Ukrainian territory.

"As Ukraine has abolished taxes on exports to Russia, its goods are fully exempted from excises while Russian goods going to Ukraine are taxed twice," the expert said, stressing that the presidential decree aims to protect the interests of Russian exporters.

According to GTK, "the lion's share" of Ukrainian goods supplied to Russia is made up of beverages.

New Russian Foreign Minister Primakov Profiled

AU1901160096 Moscow OGONEK in Russian No. 3 (4434) Jan 96 p 17

[Article by Oleg Ragozin: "The Nine Circles of Yevgeniy Primakov"]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. In the Circle of the Past

The new Russian foreign minister has long been affiliated with the country's highest-placed elite — those who, as they say, make decisions.

However, the Kiev-born official, who spent his childhood in Tbilisi [Georgia], was initially faced with the common career of journalist. After graduating, in 1953, from the Moscow Institute of Oriental Studies and then after the post-graduate course at Moscow State University, Primakov becomes a foreign-service correspondent at the State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company. There, something must have happened to him: Very fast, in a matter of just six years, he became editor in chief at the Main Broadcasting Administration for Foreign Countries. From there, he rose to the post of international columnist of PRAVDA, which sent him as a correspondent to the Near East, and from there he made a new flight to the position of deputy director of the Institute of World Economy and International Relations [IMEMO] — one of the key expert institutions in the sphere of Russian external policy. Fifteen years later, Primakov became its director, while concurrently rising in his academic career.

People say that Mikhail Gorbachev liked him a lot. At any rate, Primakov was elected a USSR people's deputy from the CPSU "red hundred." Primakov occupied his highest official post in June 1989, when he became chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Union Council.

Following the failure of the August 1991 putsch, he was appointed by Gorbachev as chief of the USSR KGB First Main Administration (foreign intelligence) and maintained the post even after his patron's resignation.

2. In the Circle of the Present

Diplomats and intelligence officers who know Primakov deny his involvement in intelligence work prior to that. However, according to those same people, when he worked at the Institute for Oriental Studies and IMEMO, those institutions started, for the first time, preparing situation analyses for the KGB. Apart from this, Primakov himself hinted at his first news conference at the Foreign Intelligence Service [SVR — Sluzhba Vneshney Razvedki] that he "joins them not exactly as a novice."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

3. In the Circle of the Future

Primakov is undoubtedly one of those figures in Russia who are particularly well-versed in external policy issues. As an orientalist, he is expected to show an inevitable preference for Near Eastern affairs, and this is, perhaps, not so bad in conditions when U.S. Secretary of State Christopher puts one leader after another on his string of beads and firmly ties them up to the U.S. policy. On the other hand, some observers recall his unsuccessful attempt to talk Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn into getting out of Kuwait. Since then, the framework of the Russian policy narrowed down even further.

4. In the Circle of Concepts

Candidate for the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, Primakov was considered to be one of the masterminds of the "new thinking" in the times of Gorbachev.

His ideas in the scientific sphere are mainly associated with the Near East, the knowledge of which Primakov proved by his several books on contemporary history and policies in that region. His ideas in the sphere of intelligence are poorly known, with the exception of words to the effect that one needs "to protect state interests and ensure conditions for the development of the economy and scientific and technological progress, and not work for some political structure," because, as one can judge, the SVR devoted much of its efforts precisely to solving problems in the sphere of industrial and scientific-technological espionage. At the same time, proposals on establishing cooperation between Russian and foreign intelligence services began to be implemented during his tenure.

5. In the Circle of Like-Minded People

Primakov was once on good terms with President Gorbachev. Regarding the present entourage of the Russian president, he has no close friends there. Some analysts suspected him of "being able, in principle, to be in anybody's service."

6. In the Circle of Enemies

The new foreign minister has practically no enemies. The work he was engaged in was too closed and he is too good a diplomat for that. In the past, the left-wing orthodox Communists and nationalists attributed to him, alongside Gorbachev and Shevardnadze, all the successes of the "new thinking" policy and threatened "not to spare" him after coming to power. Later, everything somehow calmed down on its own. However, it may be expected that enemies will now reemerge — like in football, everybody is an expert in external policy and everybody has his own opinion.

7. In the Circle of Hobbies

According to the press, he "prefers reading in his leisure time and does not shun detective stories; he is particularly fond of John le Carre's books."

8. In the Family Circle

He is a widower and has a daughter. His son died suddenly several years ago. Primakov has two grandchildren.

9. In the Circle of Himself

As some people assert, he is quite outgoing for an intelligence officer.

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Questioned at Geneva Conference

LD2001083196 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The second session of the conference on inhumane weapons ended in Geneva yesterday. The session's focus was on the question of banning anti-personnel mines, which annually kill or mutilate 20,000 completely innocent civilians in conflict regions. Delegates to the conference from 50 states decided to hold additional consultations in their capitals and to meet again in Geneva in late April or early May. Most countries, including Russia and China, feel that, apart from humanitarian aspects of the problem, there are additional factors — notably the need to defend very lengthy borders. Aleksandr Zmeyevskiy, the deputy head of the Russian delegation, believes there is no alternative to mines at the moment and they cannot be replaced overnight.

Visit to Japan by Top Russian Military Man Unlikely

LD1901190396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1434 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By diplomatic correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, 13 January (ITAR-TASS) — There are problems regarding a visit to Japan by Vladimir Zhurbenko, deputy head of the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, this year, and most likely no visit will take place. Informed Russian military sources told the ITAR-TASS correspondent about this today, emphasizing that it was not a question of cancelling the trip because neither its date nor its program had been agreed.

The Japanese media reported the possibility of the military leader's visit to Tokyo, referring to sources in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, people in the military attache's office at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow told the ITAR- TASS correspondent by phone that they were "surprised by this report," because the Japanese side had not taken any specific action to arrange this visit and it was still too early to speak about whether the trip would take place or not.

At the same time the above-mentioned military sources stressed that this year Russia and Japan intend to step up contacts at ministry of defense level. These sources, in particular, confirmed that it was possible that the head of Japan's National Defense Agency would pay his first visit.

This year it is planned to have an exchange of delegations between Japan's defense research institute and Russia's Military-Strategic Research Center.

The annual consultations between the two navies on preventing incidents at sea, which have become traditional, will also take place. This time a Russian delegation is expected to visit Japan.

Russia To Build Nuclear Power Plant in PRC's Liaoning

LD1901164996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Russia and China may sign a contract in the middle of the year on construction of a nuclear power station in China's northwestern Liaoning province.

Viktor Kozlov, director general of the Atomenergoeksport corporation, told INTERFAX that Russian and Chinese experts will meet in Moscow next February to negotiate a contract.

The station will be constructed under an intergovernmental agreement signed in December 1992. The construction will start in 1996. A first power unit will be commissioned in 2002 and a second one, two years later. Their total power will be 2,000 MW. They are built around light water VVER-1000 reactors with a double hull.

The St. Petersburg-based Atomenergoproyekt institute is the general designer of the station. The reactor unit will be manufactured by the Izhorskiye Zavody company, the generators by Elektrosila and the turbines by the Leningradskiy Metallicheskiy Zavod.

The automation hardware will be made under a Siemens license by the Nuclear Control, a joint venture between the German concern and the Russian Nuclear Energy Ministry.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Says He Will 'Supposedly' Run for President

LD2201133396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 22 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday said that "supposedly" he will agree to run for president in June's poll.

Speaking to a meeting of foreign businessmen investing into Russia's economy, Yeltsin noted that he has to use such terms as "supposedly" and "presumably", because he is planning to announce the final decision between February 13 and 15.

"I understand that if I agree to participate in the elections, the struggle will be rather tough," Yeltsin said, noting that in this case his campaign will be organised with due consideration of experience accumulated by the West.

Creation of Yeltsin Reelection Support Structure Under Way

LD2201121496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 22 (INTERFAX) — First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and presidential administration chief Nikolay Yegorov are expected to officially announce the creation of a structure in support of Yeltsin's re-election to the Russian presidency in Moscow tomorrow.

Yeltsin's re-election headquarters are to be led by Soskovets, assisted by Yegorov, and according to some evidence, by former presidential administration chief Sergey Filatov and Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, according to informed sources in Moscow.

A group of steel workers that nominated Yeltsin for a second term as president is to have a meeting at the Committee for Metallurgy in Moscow tomorrow morning.

OMON Said To Impede Activities of Yeltsin Action Committee

LD1901205696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — The riot police (OMON) [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] impeded the canvassing of signatures by an action committee in support of nominating Boris Yeltsin for Russia's presidency in the center of Moscow Friday, committee co-chairman and editor-in-chief of the President newspaper Lev Shemayev told INTERFAX.

According to Shemayev, female committee activists led by Valentina Kuznetsova were canvassing signatures near the Pushkinskaya metro station when a group of OMON officer approached them. The activists identified themselves and produced all the necessary documents, he added. Shemayev said Kuznetsova had taken part in Yeltsin's nomination as far back as in 1989.

However, the policemen proposed the women go away "in a rude form and threatened to take them to a police station."

The activists obediently left, though there were many people willing to give their signatures, Shemayev said. The women failed to find out the names of the officers, but they remembered the personal identification number of the most active of them, he added.

Meanwhile, a duty OMON officer told INTERFAX that the riot police had not patrolled that area at the indicated time. In addition, OMON officers do not wear personal numbers, he remarked. Only the municipal and traffic police do, he added.

Yeltsin Dispells Rumours Surrounding Chubays' Dismissal

LD2201133596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW January 22 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin dispelled rumours that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomydin may be replaced following the dismissal of his first deputy Anatoly Chubays who was in charge of the economic policy in the government.

Yeltsin told western investors in the Kremlin on Monday that there were no contradictions between him and the premier.

"A certain person can be replaced", he said referring to Chubays and adding: "But this does not mean to change the government. It will work under the chairmanship of Viktor Chernomyrdin".

Yeltsin called to refrain from exaggerating the possible consequences of Chubays' resignation. "Do not make a tragedy from the fact that Chubays was dismissed. It was not Chubays alone who ran privatisation, however it was he who made some mistakes", according to the president.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yeltsin made it clear that Chubays would be offered a job abroad.

He "will work for the benefit of Russia" in a European or world economic institution, according to the president.

Russia: Luzhkov Urges Probe Into Chubays' Privatization Moves

LD1901160896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has urged the Public Prosecutor's Office to investigate privatization activities conducted by former Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow on Friday, Luzhkov said that "Chubays' decisions have led to the greatest deception and scams with regard to the Russian people and the country's economy."

If the federal government does not look into the work done by the "chief ideologist of Russia's privatization," it will "deceive the expectations of society," the mayor warned.

Luzhkov believes that Norilsk Nikel, YUKOS and North-West River Shipping Line sold through loans-for-shares auctions should be returned to the government.

The Moscow-based ZIL auto works must be "de-privatized" and the $4 million paid for it should be returned, he said.

In his view, the state should stop the mushrooming of voucher-investment funds in the country and assume responsibility and obligations to their investors.

Luzhkov also accused Chubays of "the uncontrolled pricing policy." If basic prices should be free, the price of fuel and energy should be controlled by the state, he added.

Yeltsin Congratulates New Duma Speaker Seleznev

LD2001144096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin congratulated new Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev, Yeltsin's press service said.

Yeltsin hopes Seleznev will "safeguard and advance his predecessors' strategy for compromise in critical decision-making."

Seleznev will hopefully "rise above the narrow partisan interests in a bid to insure the effective functioning of the national legislature and safeguard the national and state interests in the law-making process," Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin is willing to promote "constructive cooperation in the interests of the state of Russia and for the sake of this multinational country."

Yeltsin Meets With Federation Council Working Group

LD2201131396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin today met with members of the working group preparing the convocation of the new Federation Council, said presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev. Attending the meeting were Nikolay Yegorov, head of Presidential Administration; Yegor Stroyev, head of the working group and the head of administration of Orel Region; and members of the group.

According to Sergey Medvedev, Boris Yeltsin again drew attention to the need for proper preparation of laws, and also asked for the order of priority in which the laws will be adopted to be determined. The president's press secretary also said that personnel-related matters were raised at the meeting. A candidate for the Chairman of the Federation Council has already been nominated and virtually agreed, a candidate which, according to Sergey Medvedev, met with no objection either from the president or from members of the working group. As for the deputy chairmen of the Federation Council, since the Russian Constitution does not specify their number, this issue will be decided at a Federation Council sitting.

Yeltsin Wants Former Communist To Head Federation Council

LD2201133296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1318 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW January 22 (ITAR-TASS) — President Boris Yeltsin wants Yegor Stroyev, the governor of the Orel region in central Russia, to head the new Federation Council, Tass learned from well-informed sources in the Kremlin on Monday, however there was no official confirmation of the report.

Yeltsin held a meeting with a working group which prepares the first session of the upper house and Stroyev was also present.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Presidential spokesman Sergey Medvedev said that "The candidate for the post of the chairman of the Federation Council had been actually agreed upon and caused no objections either from the president or members of the working group". However, he did not elaborate and did not name Stroyev.

Stroyev was the Communist leader of the Orel region in Soviet times and in 1989 was appointed secretary of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist party when Mikhail Gorbachev was in office.

In 1993 he was elected governor of the Orel region.

Yeltsin Dismisses State Archives Head, Regional Envoy

LD2001144296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 20 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on Saturday relieving Rudolf Pikhoya of his duties as head of the Russian State Archival Service at his request.

Yeltsin also accepted the resignation of Vasiliy Teterin who served as his envoy in the Krasnodar region, the presidential press service told ITAR-TASS.

Yeltsin Returns Law on Insolvency of Banks to Duma

LD2001212996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2106 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, January 21 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent the State Duma on Saturday his recommendations concerning the draft law "on insolvency (bankruptcy) of banks and other lending institutions."

The president noted that all issues associated with the bankruptcy of lending institutions are regulated by the law "On Insolvency (Bankruptcy) of Enterprises" and many provisions of the draft law repeat this law.

In addition, in some instances the draft law runs counter to the Russian legislation, the presidential press service quoted Yeltsin as saying.

The president advised the Duma to revise the draft law to include his recommendations and consider it only after the law "On Banks and Banking" becomes effective.

Primakov Outlines His Foreign Policy Priorities for Russia

MK1901133396 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 2 18-24 Jan 96

[Interview with newly-appointed Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov by Yegor Yakovlev, OBSHCHAYA GAZETA chief editor; place and date not given: "About a New, Long-Familiar Job"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yakovlev] I remember you joking when you were just assuming the helm of the Foreign Intelligence Service, "I have asked my colleagues not to tell me any secrets because otherwise I will finally be denied the freedom of movement." Now you are a person who has the most unrestricted freedom of movement in this country. Tell me what would you write in my place on learning that Yevgeniy Primakov has been appointed foreign minister?

[Primakov] In your place I, first of all, would not conceal the fact that you are his friend. Then I would note that you do not particularly envy Primakov because he has received a challenging inheritance. Finally, it should be said that — I am absolutely confident of it — a foreign minister must be absolutely loyal to the president. As for the Foreign Ministry, it should coordinate all other agencies with regard to foreign policy matters. It won't do if every ministry carries out its own international policy. It would probably be also worth mentioning that on my first day on the new job I had a meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko. We together arrived at the conviction that the development of a strategic partnership between our countries is inhibited by extremes when impulses hurting the self-respect of independent Ukraine come from Moscow and when this independence is achieved to an anti-Moscow tune. I think that we will be able to overcome the extremes and reach agreement on all matters.

[Yakovlev] No other appointment of late has been so widely commented on. Has there been anything unexpected in the responses?

[Primakov] There have been no unexpected responses because I knew that I would not be reproached for a lack of professionalism — I have been dealing with international matters all my life. I know that some in the West see me as a conservatively minded and sometimes even tough person — with regard to the essence, though, not form. I do not repudiate these characteristics because I do not see anything to be ashamed of in them.

[Yakovlev] How long are you going to stay in this office?

[Primakov] As long as I will be asked, unless, of course, my strength lets me down. Because I agreed to take up

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

this job, I will do it until somebody comes to replace me for reasons that do not depend on me.

[Yakovlev] What would be the most desirable result for you?

[Primakov] For the Foreign Ministry to take a deserving place in the state system.

[Yakovlev] What was decisive for you when you were giving your consent?

[Primakov] Of course, the president's wish to see me in this post and the arguments he cited giving reasons for this appointment. Frankly, it was difficult for me to give my consent — by the way, among other things, because the years I spent in the intelligence service were happy for me. A great support for me was the president's stance that did not allow a time gap to occur between my departure and the appointment of my successor. This was a clever move because it ruled out a destabilization of the intelligence service and inevitable rumors about possible appointments. I would be good if this practice of simultaneous decisions is retained in other official reshuffles.

[Yakovlev] Did the president's offer come as a surprise for you?

[Primakov] It did not come as a complete surprise. Lots of names had already been suggested by the time, and my name was mentioned among others. So at my meeting with the president, I was the first to broach this subject and the president noted that, as an intelligence officer, I know in advance what they are going to speak to me about.

[Yakovlev] Innumerable reproaches have been hurled at Kozyrev. At the same time, reasonable people understand that his defeats are attributable not so much to his personal qualities as, rather, to the knots that are being tightened in both the Russian foreign policy and the Foreign Ministry. What objective difficulties are there in store for you?

[Primakov] To prevent the defense of Russian interests from evolving into a confrontation with those whom you do not let infringe on these interests. Probably, this is what the main difficulty of international policy boils down to. A great power ought to act along all directions of world politics, there is no arguing about it. But this is not to everybody's liking. It will not be easy to see to it that Russia's comprehensive involvement does not cause conflicts. And one last point. For us, NATO's expansion is unacceptable. We do not object to East and Central European countries' becoming confident of their security. Let them receive any guarantees in that respect. But the guarantees must not entail an advance of NATO's infrastructure to our borders.

[Yakovlev] And what about conflicts on the domestic scene, which have been recently rocking the Foreign Ministry?

[Primakov] To all appearances, they are surmountable. Foreign policy must be an all-nation policy. So I will need to straighten out relations with the leaders of the State Duma's key factions. As a matter of fact, this is one of the goals set by the president.

[Yakovlev] To tell the truth, I have not been in this office for a long time. I remember Eduard Shevardnadze on the chair you are sitting on. Don't you have any misgivings about this office's previous history?

[Primakov] I can only tell you that in the Kremlin, as a presidential council member, I occupied Molotov's former office.

IZVESTIYA Criticizes Yeltsin's Mishandling of Hostage Crisis

MM1901185396 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 2

[Article by Otto Latsis: "Boris Yeltsin's Memory Seems To Be Failing Him"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian president appears to be forgetting how he become Russian president. What happened was that for the first time in our country's history the choice of the head of state was determined by popular support, which overcame the resistance of the ruling bureaucracy. Now that the time approaches for a new election, the president is doing all he can to destroy the already diminishing chances of a renewal of popular support for his policy.

This is further evidenced by his 18 January speech on the outcome of the operation in Pervomayskoye. The smiling man, pleased with what had been achieved, clearly did not want to put to his entourage the numerous questions prompted by their cheerful news. How many of ours died, the number hostages saved — none of it tallied with previous reports, with the logic of the situation. And how can you talk about its being a "lesson for the Dudayevites" when Raduyev had not been found and it was not known how many terrorists had escaped? But the main question was about the original plan behind the operation.

Raduyev's bandit action in Kizlyar was radically different from Basayev's action in Budennovsk in terms of its results: Basayev emerged victorious, having secured

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

his political demands. Raduyev tried to flee, having renounced all his political demands. His wish for guaranteed safety for his gang was not an excessive price to pay for the salvation of an enormous number of innocent people captured by him. A multitude of very resolute people has now appeared, approving of the punishment of the terrorists at any price. One would like to know how resolute they would have been had they or their relatives been hostages sentenced to death.

They say that "nowhere in the world" do they negotiate with terrorists. This is untrue. Some 80 percent of the hostages released in the world were freed as a result of negotiations. Moreover, no one in the world has encountered gangs of 500 men taking 2,000 people hostage. They say that the punishment of terrorists is the authorities' priority task. This is also untrue because the priority task everywhere is to free hostages without any losses or with as few as possible.

They say that if they get away with it it increases the danger of further acts of terrorism. But they should think of this when they entrust the country's defense to incompetent generals and reduce the special units' standard of combat capability. They should have thought about this when, although having had the terrible experience of Afghanistan, they unleashed a just such a terrorist and equally hopeless war on Russian territory. They should have thought about this when the Russian state refused to prosecute the leaders of the terrorists who seized the Moscow White House in October 1993 and committed arson and murder in city hall and Ostankino: Indeed parliament, the president, and the Russian Prosecutor's Office united in agreeing to an amnesty for the culprits and an end to the investigation. The fierce intractability is apparently selective.

The events in Kizlyar are the least appropriate moment for talking about having to punish criminals first and foremost. They punished themselves by their clearly abortive action, which angered the people of Dagestan. The Dudayevites also punished themselves when, having failed to secure any further gain in Kizlyar, at the same time they lost all that they had gained in Budennovsk, since a new act of mass terror, committed on orders from Dudayev personally, released the Russian Government from the commitments it had made earlier in talks with the Dudayevites. So from every angle it is clear that saving the hostages should have been the primary concern. Why was it then that something so obvious, for example, to ordinary Dagestanis, who offered to form a live corridor from Pervomayskoye to the Chechen border, was incomprehensible to the top Russian policy-makers?

There is one explanation: They did not want to see it. They were not thinking about people, they were thinking about revenge, which would assuage their anger over the defeat in Budennovsk. It is not inconceivable that there was a totally cynical intention: They were thinking about the upcoming elections. Boris Yeltsin's prestige among the people has nose-dived compared with 1991. The only hope of as revival of faith in Yeltsin was that people would see the old Yeltsin again, the one who stood on a tank and said the words people were waiting to hear. That they would see a strong Yeltsin. But instead of a strong state we saw only state cruelty. Because a state's strength does not lie in its ability to suppress and kill its own citizens, but in an ability to protect them securely.

It is impossible not to connect the events in Pervomayskoye with the cadre shifts of recent days.

The connection between the decision on Pervomayskoye and the appointment of Nikolay Yegorov as leader of the President's Staff seems obvious: Yegorov is a well-known supporter of strong-arm actions if the need arises and even if it does not arise. And if you take the president's explanations about the reasons for removing Sergey Filatov, who originally arrived in Yeltsin's apparatus from the parliament, where he was one of the most eminent leaders of the democratic wing, then these do not appear convincing by any means. Although Filatov was removed by the edict "in connection with a transfer to another job," he was not given any other job. After all, in that formula a job is understood not as an assignment, but as a post. Yet he was given an assignment, and not the most senior one, because he is not chief of the [election campaign] headquarters, but only the deputy. Oleg Soskovets, who was appointed the chief, was for some reason not released from his previous post.

You cannot avoid thinking that the aim here is nothing to do with a "different job," but it is an attempt to respond to the results of the December elections by moving away from the democratic politicians and the reformist policy — irrespective of all the oaths of allegiance to the reform policy. Anatoliy Chubays' dismissal serves as further confirmation of this. The policy of reform is not associated with anyone so closely, except for Yegor Gaydar, as it is with Chubays. To speak of loyalty to this policy and remove its main vehicle with unintelligible and completely undeciphered allusions to not carrying out instructions is more than strange. And if these instructions meant something along the lines of the recent demand, without proper cause, to allocate the latest substantial sum of money from the state budget to the latest private enterprises among the monsters of the planned economy (in this case the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Krasnoyarsk combine plant), then there is far more reason to demand accountability from those who are issuing such illegal instructions.

It is hard to rule out a special kind of maneuver here. The "raids" by people close to the president on his strongest allies — Chernomyrdin and Luzhkov, which occur from time to time, come to mind. So it appears that the weaker the president's prestige among the electorate, the stronger some people's worries that other major politicians of the reformist wing will become his competitors — no matter how much they may swear to the opposite. And this may mean that Chubays' removal was, apart from anything else, designed to weaken the position of Chernomyrdin, whom Chubays unconditionally supported in that pretty strange Chernomyrdin-Soskovets-Chubays triangle that existed. The strange nature of mutual relations in this triangle came to the surface back at the end of 1994 with the publication of the notorious letter from General Korzhakov, who essentially suggested to the premier that he should transfer the principal part of his economic powers to Soskovets. However, obviously the president's choice of Chubays' successor — about whom nothing is known at the moment — might dispel any of these doubts which come to mind.

It seems that the president believed communist propaganda which made a fuss about the fact that the policy of reform and its supporters suffered a defeat at the elections. No, it was the supporters of war, the corrupt bureaucrats, the clumsy officials, incapable of putting our economy and the streets of our cities in order, who suffered a defeat. It would be better to distance oneself from precisely them.

Chernomyrdin: Crisis Shows Talks With Dudayev 'Useless'

LD1901175796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — The tragic events in the Dagestani village of Pervomayskoye showed to the whole world that it is useless to talk with gunmen loyal to Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen separatist leader, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said in Moscow on Friday.

He was speaking at the signing of a Russian-Belarusian-Kazakh document on the start of the second stage of the trilateral customs union.

"They are not the type of people you can talk with and it is not the type of area you can talk about," he added.

Further commenting on the tragedy, Chernomyrdin said his assessment of the events is close to that of Russian President Boris Yeltsin. At the same time, he added that time is needed to conduct a thorough analysis and draw final conclusions.

The operation's main goal was to free hostages with as little bloodshed as possible, Chernomyrdin said. "It will take us some more time to examine in detail what happened in reality and make corresponding conclusions," he added.

Chernomyrdin Hopes for Cooperation With New Duma

LD2201120396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1121 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 22 (INTERFAX) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed the hope for constructive cooperation between the government and the new State Duma. He was speaking at a meeting of the advisory committee for foreign investments in Moscow on Monday.

Chernomyrdin noted that the first few sessions of the Duma after the December 17, 1995 parliamentary elections have shown that "cooperation is possible between factions that had irreconcilable positions during the election campaign."

He believes that this "gives reason to believe that the search for reasonable compromises will be the main law for Russian legislators within the next four years and inspires hope for effective interaction between all branches of power in Russia."

At the same time, the prime minister noted that "he is not indulging himself either in over-optimistic forecasts or in the belief that the policy of economic and financial stabilization conducted by the government will be applauded by the deputies."

On the contrary, "there will be a very serious struggle, including for the full and precise implementation of the federal budget adopted last year," he added.

The prime minister stressed that this is a "normal practice for any normal country." The government will have to do a lot of difficult, but normal work, "in which we have already learnt something over the last few years and know a thing or two about."

He pointed out that fighting price rises will be one of the top priority tasks for the government in 1996.

Chernomyrdin recalled that the government's plan of action for the year calls for bringing monthly inflation down to less than 2 percent. This will allow the government to resolve the payment crisis, make credits cheaper and attract more investments in production.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Responding to criticism of the government's tough anti-inflationary policy, Chernomyrdin stressed that "it is very hard and unpopular to be tough, especially in the year of presidential elections, but there is no other alternative."

"The essence of the responsibility of power is in its ability to teach — and force, if need be — people to live according to their means, so that real income, not money supply, will grow," he said.

The prime minister denied any link between personnel changes in the government with the results of parliamentary elections.

In his view, "in 99, if not all 100, percent of cases, these changes are not politically motivated."

"This is a natural process of the renovation of the Cabinet. You can judge by concrete names that the replacement of some ministers has nothing to do with the interests of political parties and movements, but is of a purely professional nature," he said.

Daily Ponders Party Alignments in New Russian Duma

MM1901133396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Weekend Edition in Russian 19 Jan 96 p 7

[Article by Aleksandr Batygin under the "Political Forecast" rubric: "Enterprises of Great Pith and Moment Go Awry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To be, or not to be? In the wake of the State Duma elections, Hamlet's eternal question is being urgently pondered by the majority of political parties and movements. Some of them no longer have to worry about answering it — they have burst like soap bubbles, having declared intentions and nothing else in their election manifestos. The fate of others is not altogether clear — their leaders have essentially betrayed their voters: They did not head the party lists but ensured their seats in parliament through success at single-seat electoral districts. Yet others, in an attempt to get over their cruel defeat as quickly as possible, are again setting sail by creating new blocs.

We Can Only Have Faith in Stability

Perhaps nobody has described Russia's unpredictability better than Tyutchev. Paraphrasing the poet, let us add: We can only have faith in our country's political stability. Whatever the issue at stake, we follow our own path, which is distinct from the civilized path — be it our choice of methods for integration with the world community, the struggle against terrorists, or the quest for spiritual guidelines.

For years on end we have lived in an atmosphere of political unpredictability. Could anyone have imagined that the CPSU, which collapsed without a fight in August 1991, would be reborn so soon and would win more votes than any other party in the 1995 parliamentary elections? Could any political scientist or sociologist last year have forecast the crushing defeat suffered in the struggle for deputies' seats by the Congress of Russian Communities and the Agrarian Party of Russia, which were listed among the favorites, or the total failure of the Democratic Choice and the PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord]? Or, in contrast, predicted that the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] would come in second?

It seems to me that even now, when analyzing the results of the parliamentary election campaign hot on its heels and using this analysis as a litmus paper for the next elections in June, we are beginning to create new myths and to add new hues, not always accurately selected, to the portrait of future Russia. Of course, this "we" applies not only and not so much to journalists, even though the mass media's role has grown immeasurably over the last few years. Those who packed the hall of sessions inside the Okhotnyy Ryad mansion last Tuesday [16 January] will probably try to prove to their voters straight away that their votes have not been wasted. And yet we must admit: Parliament's impact on our lives, dear readers, is only strategic. The country's real policy is shaped in other architectural complexes — the Kremlin and the White House. Nonetheless, the role of parliament as a whole and of its lower chamber in particular as a legislative organ should not be underestimated in any way. And the same applies to the fact that the tone in political decisionmaking in the current Duma, at least over the next six months, will be set by the Communists.

Better, and Faster!

"Come back Lenin, all is forgiven!" — this tear-jerker headline was used by Britain's influential newspaper THE OBSERVER immediately after the elections. "A mortal clash between 'nashi' [ours] and 'ikhne' [theirs]" — this is how the newspaper assessed the election marathon and its conclusion.

The common Russian meaning of "ours" implies the proponents of communist ideas, while "theirs" is taken to mean the democrats who, with their market and other suchlike, have "driven" the great country into the abyss. But do not be too hasty with explanations. Many people in the West believe that the real watershed today is not between Communists and democrats but between those who strive for Russia's worthy integration in the world community and those who could not care less about

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

universally accepted international norms and want their country to inspire fear across the world.

Let the West believe what it likes, but we at home know that many people who cast their vote for the CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation] on 17 December certainly did not vote for the former CPSU. The simple answer is that life today is so complex, and at times so unbearable, that people want to do something "as a sign of protest." Examples are not altogether satisfactory, but people, mainly the elderly, are overwhelmed by the childish desire to see things get better, and faster!... But miracles do not happen. And they forget other things. If nothing else, the fact that today's Communist Party does not deem it sacrilegious to talk about the market, reforms, alliance with the church, independence of press and television, and so on. And even its current leaders themselves have nothing in common with the buttoned-up and permanently ailing elders from the Politburo.

But you can judge for yourselves. "The West has nothing to fear," Gennadiy Zyuganov claims, "about Russia wanting to restore the former Soviet empire." In an interview with the German magazine DER SPIEGEL, the CPRF leader remarked: "Willy Brandt is an example for me." Let us recall that Brandt was FRG chancellor and head of the Socialist International for a long time. In the same interview, Zyuganov emphasized: "I like many social democratic ideas." Liking does not mean immediate guidance for action, but the admission itself is no accident: The CPRF's future is associated by many people, including its members and supporters, with the party's gradual transformation into a social democratic party, which is for the time being hindered by the absence of a "middle class" in our country.

Valentin Kuptsov, another of the Communists' leaders, is even more specific. Answering a BBC correspondent's question whether the Communists, on coming to power, would want to renationalize private property, Kuptsov said: "We have never set ourselves this goal. We defined our line on privatization questions as follows. Everything that has been done in breach of the law must be legally appraised. Everything that has been done within the law's framework will remain the way it is." True enough, an amplification of the CPRF leaders' craftiness is in order here. The point is that they believe that privatization is being conducted illegally in Russia because the Duma never ratified the state privatization program.

Next question: "Will you vote no confidence in the government, or is a coalition with the NDR [Russia Is Our Home] possible?" Answer: "Today it is premature to talk about the government's resignation."

A point of interest: Why is it that, in interviews with Western mass media, the most fierce critics of the government's policies are not as forceful as in their speeches at domestic rallies? Evidently, they want the West to see them as civilized reformers and not as outright revolutionaries. But this is by the way.

This year any step and any statement by any leader of any party or movement will be, one way or another, geared to the upcoming presidential elections. The Communists' candidate for the post of head of state is their party leader. Nonetheless, a mighty and influential force like the CPRF can, believe it or not, help Boris Yeltsin in June. Because he could turn the Zyuganovites' success to his advantage by mobilizing Russian society which still remembers the not so good aspects of the CPSU's activity over its years-long history. Re-created from among the same people and on the same basis, it cannot but be a twin brother of the totalitarian monster.

Here is a detail: Last weekend's CPRF Central Committee plenum was held in an atmosphere of strictest secrecy, journalists were denied access. Something similar happened also 20 years ago, when even PRAVDA's journalists were often not informed of a scheduled congress or plenum agenda and learned the news from the TASS ticker tape.

Four Hues — Four Egos

The Duma's party pallet now contains four hues. The LDPR held its seventh congress immediately after the elections. The liberal democrats' forum turned into a benefit performance for Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who was unanimously nominated candidate for Russia's president. Vladimir Volfovich remained true to himself, demanding the destruction of Chechen gunmen with napalm and describing the CPRF as "the party of revenge and deceived old men...."

The phenomenon of the LDPR leader continues to amaze us, but we have to admit: The loss of one-half of the votes and the failure in first-past-the-post districts prove that the "falcons" have no reliable base and the party relies on its leader's charisma, even though it goes without saying that his slogans, like knockout blows, still attract a considerable proportion of Russians.

The LDPR is not alone. The principle of "I am the party" was used to build Sergey Shakhray's PRES, Borovoy's Economic Freedom Party, and dozens of other sham parties especially set up for the elections. And this largely explains their failure in the elections. But even if anyone does still nurture vain hopes of reviving past popularity, the future of the PRES seems to be most dismal.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

I would think that the selfsame reflections about charisma are to a certain extent also applicable to Yabloko leader Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. His — not the party's — future depends largely on the extent to which the author of the "500 Days" will be able to rally all democratic forces, in other words to succeed where Gaydar failed. The Yabloko leader's irrepressible ambitions could be detrimental to his plans. And then.... True enough, Yegor Timurovich [Gaydar] himself, with a wisdom worthy of a much older man, did express the hope that the NDR and Yabloko, having got into the Duma, will manage to find a common language and nominate a single candidate for the presidential race. Because we are talking about a really serious risk — otherwise people going to vote will have to choose between Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy.

Our newspaper has written often enough about another member of the victorious group of four — the NDR movement. Its nucleus in the capital (where the NDR came first) and at regional level consists of well known, professional, and experienced people, many of whom have performed state service. It is such deputies who are capable of transforming the Duma from a "big talking shop" into a genuinely legislative organ.

The election campaign also revealed flaws in the NDR's activity — this was repeatedly said by movement Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin. Today the NDR faction intends to work in the Duma without superfluous arguments and proceeding, as its leader Sergey Belyayev said, along the priority avenues listed in the NDR program documents. During the election campaign the NDR came under fire from political rivals perhaps more than any other party. But today the movement's faction has called upon its fellow deputies to use the Duma rostrum only for its intended purpose.

Nature Abhors a Vacuum

There are quite a few ambitious and irrepressible fighters among those who suffered defeat in the clashes for a deputy's seat. The new Duma has already seen the presentation of the "People's Power" group, whose constituent statement was signed by nine of the 12 deputies who won in single-seat districts under the "Power to the People!" bloc's banner. The future faction's "founding fathers" included "three-times" Deputy Sergey Baburin; former Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov; and Sergey Manyakin, former first secretary of Omsk Oblast CPSU Committee. What was the purpose of all the hullabaloo at the height of the Christmas celebrations? The explanation is simple. The "People's Power" did not announce its emergence 9 January by accident. Following the dissolution of "Ivan Rybkin's Bloc," a vacancy for a "left-handed party" appeared in the political arena. Nature abhors a vacuum, and the vacuum was immediately filled by the new deputies' formation.

According to ordinary logic, temperature in the Duma ought to rise day by day as summer approaches. But let us not try and guess what will actually happen. We all have only too fresh memories of how people's tribunes immediately forgot their election promises once they joined the establishment with its alluring privileges, including deputy's immunity and the opportunity to convert their political status into hard cash.

After all, as Hamlet reminds us in his most famous soliloquy:

"...And thus the native hue of resolution
"Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought,
"And enterprises of great pith and moment
"With this regard their currents turn awry,
"And lose the name of action."

In conclusion, I would take it upon myself to assert: There is today in Russia another actually existing party, capable of firmly shouldering responsibility for the country's future. And yet it is not listed either on ballot papers or in political reference books.

This party is Boris Yeltsin. "I personally do not treat the election results as a tragedy," he said prior to flying off to Paris. "I believe that we will still manage somehow."

What did the president have in mind? I personally detected a quite specific wish of his.

TsIK Rules on Signatures To Support Russian Presidential Candidates

LD2001152696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 20 (INTERFAX) — Voters can give their signatures in support of the same presidential candidate only once, Olga Zastrozhnaya of the Central Electoral Commission [TsIK] told INTERFAX.

However voters can give their signatures in support of various candidates nominated by different election associations or pressure groups, she explained.

The bill on presidential elections does not limit the number of pressure groups nominating the same candidate for presidential elections. "No matter how many pressure groups nominate the same candidate for presidential elections, each of them must collect at least one million signatures to register its candidate," she told INTERFAX.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Gaydar Ready To Discuss Chernomyrdin's Presidential Candidacy

LD2201130096 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1200 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to journalists on Monday, Yegor Gaydar, leader of the Russian Democratic Choice [DVR], said that the nomination of Russia's presidential candidates would cost about 1 billion rubles. He refused to run in the presidential elections and said that Boris Yeltsin and Anatoliy Chubays should not contest the post for certain reasons.

With regard to Boris Yeltsin, Gaydar said that a joint meeting of the DVR's executive committee and political bureau will draft a letter to the president today, asking him not to run for a second term. A similar proposal will be sent to leaders of small democratic parties and blocs; so as to allow time to discuss this with them first, their joint decision will become known only in three or four weeks.

Gaydar said that his party will not support Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, but is prepared to discuss Chernomyrdin's candidacy in a constructive way.

Election Itself Seen More Important Than 'Who Sits in the Kremlin'

MM1801121696 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Jan 96 p 3

[Article by political analyst Liliya Shevtsova under the "Opinions, Disputes" rubric: "Elections '96. From the Parliamentary to the Presidential Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I believe that the most important aspect of the recent Duma elections is not the swing to the left in parliament or in society itself. Far more important is the fact that today's elites cannot consolidate their power without democratic procedures, without appealing to society as arbiter. And this a good thing, irrespective of who specifically won or lost in December. So that the political class' requirement to appeal to the people should become permanent, the presidential election is also essential. And here it will not be important who gets into the Kremlin but whether, for example, the ruling group voluntarily cedes power if its leader loses, and whether the new president abides strictly by the same democratic rules.

The Duma epic has demonstrated the fragmentation of the main political forces — democrats, patriots, left-wingers, indeed, the "ruling party" itself. As far as the latter is concerned, the way that Yeltsin and his circle distanced themselves from Chernomyrdin's movement was remarkable. The president did not wish for his premier's defeat. But nor did he want him to achieve a decisive victory, which would have transformed Chernomyrdin into his rival. Be that as it may, the fragmentation of all forces, including the powers that be themselves, now makes it easier for Yeltsin — not his rivals — to maneuver. Let us note also that the election battle did not lead to the emergence of a new national leader. All the leading politicians — Chernomyrdin, Yavlinskiy, Zyuganov, Zhirinovskiy, Lebed — acted as the spokesmen of specific political alignments. And only one politician, who did not participate at all but only observed the action from the sidelines, is nevertheless able to aspire to be a supraparty leader. Again, that is Boris Yeltsin.

Incidentally, the Duma elections could prove a false guide to the president's principal rivals, if they continue to rely on the same slogans and the same social bases. After all, **the presidential elections are a whole new ball game.** A significant part of society in June will most probably vote, not for a particular party, but for a leader who raises himself above party and corporate interests and offers **a unifying idea**. And here lies a trap for the majority of the presidential candidates.

On the one hand, giving way to inertia, they continue to behave in the same manner as they adopted before the Duma elections. But, on the other, their previous rhetoric and social bases are becoming an obstacle to their progress beyond a narrow party role. If they nevertheless attempt to do so, and begin a policy of extensive compromises, this threatens them with the loss of their own electorates, who will view this maneuver as treachery. Yeltsin could also trip up here, however, if he tries to create an anti-Communist front and to thereby split society. From then on he would lose the right to stand above the fray.

The Duma elections force us to revise some of our former ideas about politics. Thus the defeat of the KRO [Congress of Russian Communities] showed the dubiousness of exploiting the "Russian idea" with a view to mobilizing the people. The masses did not react as expected to Lebed's charisma. And this prompts doubts as to how much our society desires Bonapartism. The recent elections showed that all political forces in Russia are still trying to unite the masses **on the basis either of protest or of nostalgia**. But no one has **a clear vision of the future**. We also saw **the intensification of the split between Moscow and the provinces**, which cannot but make it more difficult for any Moscow politician to win the presidential election. All this needs to be taken into account at the new stage of the battle.

The real presidential race will begin only after Yeltsin officially delares his intentions. It is in his interests, I suggest, to postpone this decision as long as possible.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

This sows confusion in his rivals' plans and deprives them of the opportunity to form alliances. Yeltsin's participation or nonparticipation in the election could substantively change the whole course of the election campaign.

The tactics of the president's team are also already obvious. Right now we are witnessing an attempt by Yeltsin's advisers to pull off a double trick. Thus, on the one hand, the president is trying to revive anticommunism and recreate his former base. But on the other, his team are seeking to split the forces opposed to the Kremlin and entice their representatives — especially the Communists — into the government and thereby neutralize them.

Let me note that there are no grounds for recreating the old confrontational model in which Yeltsin felt so comfortable. Rather, all that remains for him to hope for is that the political spectrum remains sufficiently diffused and his rivals remain incompatible. However, these are all behind-the-scenes maneuvers. They can disorient the ranks of Yeltsin's opponents for a certain time and prolong the current president's political lease of life. But a policy based on intrigue, rather than consideration of the true interests of citizens, is hardly capable of strengthening Yeltsin's standing in society.

Of course, the ruling group should also have an action plan in case Yeltsin suddenly pulls out of the race — say, for health reasons. Who in that case will be the ruling group's candidate? Chernomyrdin? Not necessarily. The premier's chances have become more limited following the Duma elections, in which his party made a far from brilliant showing.

The ruling group does not have the time to launch another compromise figure (in the Rybkin mold). Those groups who one month ago pinned their hopes on Chernomyrdin are now confused and wondering whom to back. Let us also allow for the fact that the president could need the premier right before the election as someone to blame for failures.

In short, so far the authorities have no generally recognized heir to the current president. And this is a very bad state of affairs. In effect, B. Yeltsin's condition is becoming a factor on which the holding of the presidential election and the peaceful rotation of power as a whole depend. Moreover, the absence of a candidate for the top job who is acceptable to the majority of cartels increases the threat of a battle for Yeltsin's inheritance.

What sort of men are Yeltsin's rivals? They are well known. They are Zhirinovskiy, Yavlinskiy, and Lebed. The remaining candidates can do no more than play walk-on parts. Taking the Duma election results as the starting point in assessing the real candidates' prospects, General Lebed's chances of getting into the Kremlin are not as good as many thought in the summer. The results achieved by Yabloko show that even Yavlinskiy, despite his constantly high popularity, does not have a firm springboard from which to launch his campaign for the presidency.

If we consider the decline in Yeltsin's popularity, we would seem to be obliged to conclude that we will have to choose between Zyuganov and Zhirinovskiy. However, this will most probably not happen. The presidential election will be an intrinsically new concept, in which today's variables will be taken into consideration only obliquely. New political configurations will appear. The significance of the presidency could itself change the electoral behavior of individual strata. Thus, more likely than not, Zhirinovskiy will seem too extremist and exotic a figure to the overwhelming majority of Russian voters. Let us also bear in mind the fact that Zhirinovskiy will find it very hard to find allies.

As for Zyuganov, he also has an extremely limited potential. He is to tied to a single political orientation — which reduces his chances of becoming a national leader. And Zyuganov will hardly be able to go beyond the bounds of that orientation — the past will constantly snap at his heels. In view of the radicalization of the left-wing electorate, any alliances, let alone compromises, with the ruling class would be dangerous to Zyuganov. But without such compromises the political cartels will scarcely allow Zyuganov's election as the country's leader. Another consideration of no little importance is the fact that the Communist Party leader's inclusion in the presidential race would inevitably lead the current authorities' former comrades in arms to rally round them.

As for the democrats, they also find themselves in a difficult situation. The only representative of a democratic alternative is Grigoriy Yavlinskiy. However, he would not get into the second round of a presidential election without an alliance with the Communists, and this would require him to renounce a number of his most important principles. In the event of Yavlinskiy's dropping out of the race, the democrats would be faced with a dilemma — whether to support Zyuganov, Zhirinovskiy, or the current president. Of course, the democrats would take Yeltsin's side....

As for Yeltsin himself, he is certain to enter the second round together with Zhirinovskiy. Therefore the chief "falcon's" support should be the number one priority for the president's team right now. Incidentally, whatever the permutations in Moscow, the ruling class will

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

always need Zhirinovskiy, both as a partner in various manipulations and as a factor for intimidation and self-justification.

Of course, the possibility of other scenarios should not be ruled out, for example, an alliance between Lebed and the Communists. True, this now looks problematic, especially after the general's remarks about the Communists. However, theoretically an alliance between the Communist organization and the charismatic general, on the condition that it managed to secure the support of a section of the federal and local bureaucracy, would present the biggest threat to Yeltsin. But in any case the current president would have a chance of remaining in the Kremlin. And this fact itself reflects the tension of Russia's present situation. For reasons which are well known, Yeltsin in 1995 governed not so much the country as "his own court." If he is reelected but does not manage to see out his term of office, it requires no particular effort of imagination to see what turmoil would envelop our powers that be. At the same time, no other powerful figure who might be acceptable both to society and to Russia's political class has emerged on the stage.

The result of the presidential election depends not only on behind-the-scenes intrigues but on the future dynamics of public sentiment. They will be determined by a whole range of factors: the solution of social problems and the Chechnya war, how safe citizens feel personally, the degree of degradation of the ruling class, and so forth. The authorities have too little time — six months — to achieve a positive breakthrough. To create a semblance of prosperity will be very difficult. Changing government in the middle of the race will hardly afford them much respite. The radicalization of the population shown in the elections can only intensify.

How will the powers that be react to the inevitable intensification of oppositionist sentiments in society? Two developments are possible. In the first case, the ruling stratum will be further eroded and fragmented. Individual elite groups will step up their attempts to escape responsibility for the failures, the war, and corruption and desert to other colors. In this scenario the ruling party under Chernomyrdin's leadership will split, especially if Chernomyrdin does not contest the presidency. For the ruling groups it would be safer to switch to "ruling party No. 2." Here Shumeyko's efforts would be very timely. With one "but".... The reputation of the organizer of the new party aspiring to become the movement of the future president is, to put it mildly, not very respectable. But another scenario cannot be ruled out, especially in the event of a dramatic rise in popular discontent or the threat that an upstart capable of destroying all existing ties could come to power. It would see the ruling group temporarily rallying around a single leader. **And that leader will most probably be Yeltsin.**

However, in both cases, in order to save themselves, the current authorities must sacrifice both their old rhetoric and part of the ruling group. As far as ideology is concerned, everything is clear — a new cocktail of populist, great-power [derzhavnicheskiye], and quasi-liberal ideas.

Discarding individual cabinet members is not good enough. In order for a representative of the authorities to be able to count on victory it will be necessary to "throw away" a more valuable card. And here the logic of operations is obvious. For Yeltsin to be able to oppose his rivals, he needs to shift all blame for failures onto Chernomyrdin. The premier is the decisive figure in the preservation of the president. If it proves to be more convenient for the regime to support Chernomyrdin, then the ideal victim should be Yeltsin. However, this finale is possible only in the event that the president's health prevents him from resisting.

Could it happen that a sharp polarization of attitudes in society and the failure of the attempts by the political class to reach a compromise over a leadership candidate will lead to the postponement of the presidential election? But this would give rise to new dangers, above all to the stability of the regime itself, and intensify intransigence in the battle for power. Such a development would hardly elicit support among the regions and the corporate groups, which are interested in establishing civilized ground rules and fear the arrival of an unpredictable leader in the Kremlin. In addition, no one in the federal center has sufficient resources to hang onto power without the approval of society. It so happens that presidential elections are in fact the optimum method for consolidating this political class itself.

Be that as it may, society has again entered a period of campaigning, a period which will be lost to the performance of ordinary development tasks — everything will be subordinated to the short-term aims of the skirmish. But to legitimize the regime once and for all it is exceptionally important. The election itself, I repeat, is more important than who in the final analysis sits in the Kremlin.

Russian FSB Spokesman Mikhaylov Fired

LD1901195696 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Aleksandr Mikhaylov, head of the Public Relations Center of the Federal Security Service [FSB], has been relieved of his post by a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

departmental order, INTERFAX was told today by Federal Security Service sources.

Let me remind you that Aleksandr Mikhaylov was in Dagestan from the moment that the hostages were taken in Kizlyar and was one of the few official sources of information.

Russia: Decree on State Conversion Fund Role, Leadership

MM2201112696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 4

[Russian Federation Government Decree No. 1239, "On the State Conversion Fund," signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 16 December 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On the Conversion of the Defense Industry in the Russian Federation," and with the aim of implementing the provisions of the Russian Federation Government Program "Reform and the Development of the Russian Economy in 1995-1997," ratified by Russian Federation Government Decree No. 439 dated 28 April 1995 (SOBRANIYE ZAKONODATELSTVA ROSSIYSKOY FEDERATSII, 1995, No. 21, p. 1966), and also for the purposes of organizational and financial provision for the conversion of the defense industry, the Russian Federation government decrees:

1. To agree with the proposal made by the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and supported by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, and the Russian Space Agency to create a state conversion fund — (hereinafter called — the Fund) in the form of a state institution.

The following are to be considered the Fund's main tasks:

promoting state policy in the sphere of the conversion of the defense industry on the basis of support for the conversion programs of enterprises and organizations;

ensuring uninterrupted funding for the conversion programs of defense industry enterprises and organizations through the targeted use of federal budget funds and the attraction of additional extrabudgetary funds;

promoting the development of scientific, technological, and production potentials for the development and production of civilian output;

ensuring the development, expert appraisal, and competitive selection of conversion programs subject to funding with the support of the Fund, and monitoring the implementation of the programs adopted for funding.

2. For the purposes of monitoring the Fund's activity, to form a Fund board of trustees as specified in the appendix.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Economics, in coordination with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, and the Russian Space Agency, are to elaborate and ratify the Fund's charter within a month.

During preparation of the Fund's charter provision should be made for the budget funds being channeled into conversion to be deposited in a special Fund account in the Russian Federation federal treasury.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance and the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics are to provide for the allocation to the Fund of the necessary appropriations for funding the conversion programs of defense industry enterprises and organizations as a separate item in the expenditure section of the draft federal budget.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry of Economics, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finance, the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy, the Russian Space Agency, and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property are to prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Government within a month proposals on sources of forming the Fund's assets.

6. By 1 October 1996 the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property is to resolve the issue of granting the Fund official premises to lease in Moscow city (at the Fund's proposal).

[signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Composition of the State Conversion Fund Board of Trustees

O.N. Soskovets — first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government (chairman of the board).

V.A. Mikhaylov — chief of the Russian Federation Government Apparatus Department for the Defense Sectors of Industry (deputy chairman of the board).

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Ya.M. Urinson — Russian Federation first deputy minister of economics (deputy chairman of the board).

V.K. Glukhikh — chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry.

A.A. Kokoshin — Russian Federation first deputy defense minister.

Yu.N. Koptev — general director of the Russian Space Agency.

A.P. Ogurtsov — chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Machine Building.

A.R. Kokh — first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property.

A.A. Astakhov — Russian Federation deputy minister of finance.

A.A. Kuzmitskiy — Russian Federation deputy minister of science and technical policy.

Yu.I. Tychkov — Russian Federation deputy minister of atomic energy.

V.V. Salo — chief of the Russian Ministry of Economics Department of Defense Industry Economics

Russia: Edict on Commission for Protecting State Secrets

LD2101162796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 21 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree approving the provision on the interdepartmental commission for protection of state secrets and the commission's structure, the presidential press service told INTERFAX.

Under the presidential decree, decisions of the interdepartmental commission are compulsory for the federal authorities, authorities of the federation's constituent members, local self-rule administrations, enterprises, organizations, officials and citizens, the same source said.

Russia: Decree on Federation Council's Communications System

MM1901145196 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 6

[Untitled Russian Federation Government decree No. 1738 signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin in Moscow on 26 December 1995 — from the 'Documents' section]

[FBIS Translated Text] In implementation of the Russian Federation President's edict No. 159 of 17 February 1995 "On Creating the Information and Communications System of the Federal Assembly Federation Council":

1. The Russian Ministry of Finance is to allocate 1.5 billion rubles to the Russian Federation President's Administration of Affairs to carry out the first stage of the work on creating the information and communications system of the Federal Assembly Federation Council within the limits of the overall appropriations provided for in the federal budget for 1995 for state investments.

2. The Federal Government Communications and Information Agency, together with the Russian Federation Committee for Information Technology and with the participation of the Russian Ministry of the Economy and the Russian Ministry of Finance, is to:

specify the cost estimate and the technical and economic feasibility of the work connected with creating the information and communications system of the Federal Assembly Federation Council and define the specific amount of the expenditure on carrying out the first stage of the work on creating the system, bearing in mind the rational expenditure of funds for these purposes;

draw up a system project and submit it to the Expert Council under the Russian Federation Government.

3. The Expert Council under the Russian Federation Government is to make an expert appraisal of the system project of the information and communications system of the Federal Assembly Federation Council.

[signed] V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government

Media Issues

Russia: Program Accuses Television Management of Censorship

LD2001230296 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Several cuts were made in Aleksandr Lyubimov's "Vzglyad" program dedicated to the Pervomayskoye events on the orders of the management of Russian Public Television. Lyubimov stated: We wanted to show that official reports about Pervomayskoye were not true, but Russian Public Television did not allow us to do this. According to the Teleskop Television Agency, the program lost an interview with the Novosibirsk Special Unit Militia Detachment members captured by Raduyev's group. May I remind you that the authorities reported they had been shot dead, but the interview shows they are alive. The management also cut out an interview with Aslan Maskhadov,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

in which the head of Dudayev's staff expressed his negative attitude toward Raduyev's terrorist act. Some remarks by Arkadiy Volskiy were also cut.

Sergey Blagovolin, director general of Russian Public Television, justifies the decision to cut the report about Aslan Maskhadov by not wanting to give the floor to a man involved in hostage-taking.

[begin Blagovolin recording] The "Vzglyad" program assumed quite a critical attitude toward the authorities. That is the authors' indisputable right, of course. When it comes to giving the floor to a representative of the regime famous for capturing women, children, the sick and the old and so on — we do not think that this is appropriate, and that is that. Many people are now confused: One thinks that if an antiterrorist operation is carried out badly, then one may even have grounds to justify terrorism. In my opinion, this point of view is totally unacceptable. [end recording]

Blagovolin also denied the report by the Teleskop Agency that the interview with Arkadiy Volskiy had been cut from the program.

Federal Assembly

Yeltsin To Open Russian Federation Council Session

LD2201095096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0913 GMT 22 Jan 95

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 22 (ITAR-TASS) — The first meeting of the Upper House of the Russian Parliament — the Council of the Federation — will be opened on Tuesday by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

ITAR-TASS has learned that Yeltsin would be welcomed at the entrance of the Council building by Vladimir Shumeyko, Speaker of the Council of the Federation of the first convocation. After opening the session and delivering a speech, the President will be seen off by the oldest Council member — North Ossetian President Akhsarbek Galazov. He will chair the meeting until a new speaker is elected.

The agenda of the meeting includes an item on the work of the Speaker and Vice-Speakers of the Council, who, in accordance with the new law on the formation of the Upper House, are not allowed to work on a permanent basis.

The Federation Council is also to decide the structure and procedural rules of the new Upper House, which consists of heads of legislative and executive bodies of subjects of the Federation, to endorse the composition of its committees and commissions, to adopt a special document to ensure the effective work of Council members and their assistants.

Russian Duma Disagrees on Pervomayskoye Debate

LD1901141496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1303 GMT 19 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 19 Jan (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma failed to agree to include the issue "On state officials's responsibility for the federal forces' actions in the village of Pervomayskoye" on the agenda of today's plenary sitting. Deputy Sergey Yushenkov, who headed the Defense Committee in the previous Duma, was insisting on this.

Only 156 parliamentarians voted in favor. The necessary quorum was 226 votes.

Russian Duma Favors Ratification of Document on Abkhazia

LD2001062496 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0500 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian State Duma considers it essential to ratify the document on measures to settle the conflict in Abkhazia, which was adopted by the council of CIS heads of state at their summit in Moscow. In an address to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the deputies justify their position by the provisions of the constitution and the federal law on Russia's international treaties. They draw the president's attention to the fact that the draft decision by the council of CIS heads of state, which was endorsed by one of the top officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry, states that this document should come into force from the moment of its signature.

Chairmen of Russian State Duma Committees Announced

LD1901210296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2012 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, January 19 (ITAR-TASS) — Members of parliament from the Russian Communist Party which won a majority of seats in the new State Duma at the December 17 election will head nine out of 29 permanent committees of the lower house.

In the meantime, each of the pro-government Russia Is Our Home bloc, the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party and the reformist Yabloko movement received four posts of committee head.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The resolution appointing the heads of the State Duma permanent committees was adopted by 336 votes with 32 against and four abstentions on Friday.

Another three committees will he headed by members of the Power to People faction whereas Agrarians will chair two committees.

The positions of chairman in two of the committees — for health and for northern territories — are still vacant. Earlier, members of the Russian Regions faction were supposed to occupy them. However, they refused the offers because of disagreement with the mechanics of the position distribution.

Like in the old Duma, Mikhail Zadornov (Yabloko) will head the budget committee, Vladimir Lukin (Yabloko) will be in charge of the Duma's international affairs, Communist Viktor Ilyukhin will preside over the security committee.

Another Communist, Anatoliy Lukyanov will chair the legal issues committee. Economist Pavel Bunich (Russia Is Our Home) and general Lev Rokhlin will lead the property and privatisation committee and the defence committee, respectively.

Russian Duma Chairman Seleznev Interviewed

LD1901203696 Moscow NTV in Russian 1635 GMT 18 Jan 96

[Interview with Russian State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev by Leonid Parfenov in Moscow — live; from the "Hero of the Day" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Parfenov] Good evening. Hero of the Day is on the air, with Leonid Parfenov in the studio. The State Duma of the Russian Federation was for the first time chaired by Gennadiy Seleznev today. The new head of the Russian State Duma is our studio guest. [passage omitted] The post of the speaker is thought, essentially, to be a purely nominal one: The speaker conducts the sittings, directs the work, but has no real authoritative competence. How do you regard it?

[Seleznev] The post of the State Duma chairman is indeed very strictly regulated. As you know, there are standing orders. The State Duma chairman is in charge of conducting the sittings, which is the most difficult thing, in my view. He also chairs the Duma Council sittings, conferences with faction chairmen, deputy groups and so on.

I would not describe it as purely nominal, though, since the State Duma is Russia's supreme legislative body, after all — if you mean that our laws are purely nominal acts... [pauses]

[Parfenov] No, I did not mean that, I meant in terms of personal power.

[Seleznev] In terms of personal power, I do not think there is any great, wide-ranging power. You are quite right, everything is precisely laid down in the standing orders. All our power structures should have such standing orders, I believe, so that it is quite clear who is responsible for what in the state. In regard to the State Duma chairman, everything is laid down in writing from the first to the last step.

[Parfenov] So you think there is no possibility of [pauses] — you understand. Standing orders existed in the USSR Supreme Soviet, and we all remember how Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and then Anatoliy Ivanovich Lukyanov steered things. We have a pretty short history of parliamentarianism, but it was nevertheless evident that the chairman can persuade, can put things to a revote, can announce a recess, can say it is too late.

[Seleznev] This is indeed the case. These things are permissible, of course, they are allowed under the standing orders, though the Duma chairman should not give free rein to his emotions by making comments. He has no right to make comments about a deputy. But practice shows that things like getting through the voting on some law quickly or putting a law to the top of the pile are all possible. I do not think manipulations like these influence the Duma's legislative activity in any particular way.

I repeat, the State Duma chairman today has no major, big authoritative competences. The chairman of the Supreme Soviet had far more. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] As for voting you to the post finally: According to Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, the decisive factor was that Yabloko did not support Ivan Rybkin. What do you think was the deciding factor in voting you in?

[Seleznev] Well you know, even if Yabloko had backed Ivan Petrovich Rybkin, he would not have garnered the necessary number of votes. Yabloko was in a state of some confusion: It had put forward its own candidate, Vladimir Lukin, and we reckoned he would get around 50-55 votes, as was indeed the case.

As a political movement, Yabloko had, of course, to keep up its image, it could not directly join in to support Seleznev, or to support Rybkin either, since it emerged during the nominations that Ivan Petrovich, having proclaimed a center-left policy, became the candidate of the center-right Russia Is Our Home. So of course, if Yavlinskiy had backed the government candidate, essentially then Yabloko would probably have lost face amongst their voters.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Parfenov] So the allegation that Yabloko came to agreement with the communists... [pauses]

[Seleznev] No, that's all... [pauses] It is impossible to come to agreement with them on this point. I appeared that time on your "Itogi" round table. You remember, Yavlinskiy was there along with me. We were asked a direct question: Could Yabloko join with the communists on some issues? Grigoriy Alekseyevich gave an abrupt no. So we did not go to Yabloko and Yavlinskiy himself to ask them to vote for me. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] We shall break off here to present you with a few opinions, recorded in the Duma by our correspondents today.

[Begin Vladimir Zhirinovskiy recording] Yabloko was constantly running to the communists, with Yavlinskiy trying to prove that his father was a communist and he himself had been in the party for three years and still has his party card. That's the problem with the democrats — that they often deceive and lie to their voters, because of Yabloko's position. It's already got the nickname — Krasnoye Yabloko [red apple]. It's turned out not to be Yabloko at all. [end recording]

[Begin Vladimir Lukin recording] We all know Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy. Well, he is the sort who never misses an opportunity to show off on the rostrum. He dropped out of the running for the very simple reason that there was an accord between them and the government. I don't know on what basis this accord was made, evidently something to do with profound ideals — an accord whereby he would vote for the candidate the government wanted. [end recording]

[Parfenov] Well, there you have some opinions. Tell me, how do you explain the position of Mr. Zhirinovskiy, who first put himself up for election as chairman, and then dropped out.

[Seleznev] Well, you know, putting oneself forward does indeed offer the opportunity to speak at the rostrum and gives a full guarantee that you will be filmed on television and that some sound-bites from your speech will go out on air. So during the first and second nominations, Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy took advantage of this to say what he wanted, and then stood down. [passage omitted]

It is quite another matter — and Lukin was right here when he said that the link-up between Russia Is Our Home and Zhirinovskiy was a strange one. [sentence as received] Vladimir Volfovich showed that he has nothing to do with opposition: Today he in effect united with the party of power in order to work together in the State Duma.

[Parfenov] [passage omitted] What do you think: Would it perhaps have been better had the State Duma chairman been someone who was formally outside the parties? And furthermore, do you think you will to some degree be able to waive party discipline and keep above the fray?

[Seleznev] Not only can I do so, but I have been given a mandate to do just that, so to speak. This issue was discussed in the party presidium, and it was agreed that in some issues, and in the most important issues relating to the organization of the Duma's work, I have to be above political interests. This was all agreed on in advance: There is no hypocritical trick here, to start by promising to be above party politics, but in fact being a direct representative of the party and conducting only the party line. Taking that path would mean setting the entire State Duma at odds. No good would come of it.

This is the reason we explained today why we need another post of deputy chairman of the State Duma directly from the faction. We proposed Svetlana Petrovna Goryacheva: She will have more direct contact with the faction, as the other deputy chairmen will have with their factions. I do not think I shall have either the physical strength, nor the time or anything to work with the faction as one should.

As regards the merging of interests, the majority of deputies, I think, have come to the State Duma not just to swagger and get their pictures on the television screens as a politician, but have come with sackfuls of requests from their voters. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] I want just to put another question here about Ms. Svetlana Goryacheva. Is this not a challenge, of sorts, to the executive authority? There's Mr. Baburin, he is pretty much of a personal rival to the president, now Ms. Goryacheva; the only ones missing are Anatoliy Lukyanov and Ruslan Khasbulatov — all of the people who have had personal disputes, to put it mildly, with the president.

[Seleznev] Not so. I have observed Svetlana Petrovna, she and I attended meetings with the voters in Vladivostok, and I can tell you she is a very popular personality there indeed. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] The first Duma sitting showed the current make-up of the State Duma to be radically at odds with the government line, and the president's line, on Chechnya. Do you think this disagreement will get worse?

[Seleznev] This question will, I think, come up at all State Duma sittings for as long as war is blazing in Chechnya. The point here is that the State Duma should probably renounce the adoption of mere statements

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

about Chechnya. We did not agree with the president's decision to start the war at the very beginning — you will doubtless recall our first sitting — and so it seems to me now that the State Duma should get together with government representatives of the relevant ministries and presidential structures to draw up measures which could put an end to this war.

There is something else that concerns us, too: We are essentially working without information. We know only what we manage to spot on the television or read in the newspaper, we get a few other bits of information citing sources in the Interior Ministry and the Federal Security Service. But we must of course have full information about what is happening there. For instance, as regards the tragedy in Pervomayskoye, even you, too, probably cannot say with complete certainly what happened there today. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] From what you say, you are in favor of increasing the role of the State Duma and enhancing its status. Are you in general a supporter of a parliamentary republic?

[Seleznev] Yes, I am indeed in favor of a parliamentary republic. I believe the presidency has not taken root in Russia, it is an alien organ for us. If anyone were to tell me that Russia was always a monarchy, I think it is not at all timely to bring back the monarchy now. [sentence as heard] But for there to be two powers, in the guise of a legislative assembly and an executive authority empowered with all the due competences, judicial power — this is a wholly appropriate structure for Russia which has shown itself to be justified in many respects. [passage omitted]

[Parfenov] After your election yesterday, do you think the post of chairman of the State Duma is the high spot of your career?

[Seleznev] Not yet. For the moment it is a most heavy burden and for me a wholly new type of activity.

[Parfenov] [passage omitted]

Regional Affairs

Russia: Vandals Damage Monument in Vladikavkaz

LD2001120696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 20 Jan 96

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIKAVKAZ, January 20 (ITAR-TASS) — A monument of people's friendship located in the Centre of Vladikavkaz was damaged today at around 4 a.m. today by a self-made explosive device planted by unknown criminals, head of the press service of the north Ossetian Interior Ministry Zaurbek Dzarakhokhov told ITAR-TASS. The monument made in the form of a bronze sculpture of two horsemen symbolized the unity of the Russian and Ossetian peoples.

The spokesman denied media reports alleging that the monument collapsed as a result of an explosion. He said that only the bottom of the monument was damaged. The spokesman declared that the incident does not have a political character but is an elementary act of vandalism.

Vladikavkaz Explosion Caused by Firecrackers

LD2001112496 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports of a powerful explosion today in Vladikavkaz do not correspond to reality. Our radio station learned from the North Ossetian Interior Ministry that sappers who arrived at the scene of the incident did not find any traces of explosives. It is believed that the loud bang was caused by ordinary firecrackers [petardy] which are sold over the counter in retail trade.

Russia: Ter-Petrosyan-Yeltsin Kremlin Meeting Reported

NC1901135496 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0934 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 01/19/96 — Russian President Boris Yeltsin met his Armenian counterpart Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Kremlin yesterday at 2:30pm [2130 GMT].

Leaders of our two countries discussed several problems of mutual interest, related with resolution of Karabakh conflict. No other information is available yet, since no press has been allowed.

Upon the arrival to the Vnukovo airport in Moscow, Armenian president declared that cease-fire, lasting over a year, should be supported by political agreement, and then the next stage of political negotiations should be held.

Yerevan: SNARK Details Aliyev Meeting With Shevardnadze

NC2001164996 Yerevan SNARK in English 1052 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow/19.01.96/TURAN— Last evening in Moscow there was the meeting between Azerbaijan's and Georgia's Presidents, who have arrived to the summit of the heads of the CIS-member states.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Before the summit Eduard Shevardnadze and President Aliyev conducted consultations on settlement of interethnic conflicts. As the diplomatic sources told TURAN's correspondent, Eduard Shevardnadze said during the summit Georgia will raise the issue on recognition of Abkhazian separatism on the territory of Georgia by the participants of the summit.

The issues concerning economic cooperation between Georgia and Azerbaijan as well as those concerning the forthcoming visit of President Aliyev to Georgia have been also discussed during the meeting.

Both sides stressed importance of the resolution concerning shipment of part of early Azeri oil through Georgia. Intergovernmental agreement concerning Georgian pipeline operation must be signed in the near future.

The diplomatic sources from Russian Foreign Ministry reported meeting between President Aliyev and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian scheduled for January 18, 1996 did not take place. The Russian diplomats do not exclude that Armenia's and Azerbaijan's Presidents can meet within the framework of the CIS summit, however there will be no time for a separate meeting. The observers believe this fact means that the positions of the Armenian and Azeri sides to the key conflict settlement problems did not come nearer.

Blagoveshchensk Meeting Nominates Yeltsin for President

LD1901132696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BLAGOVESHCHENSK, Jan 19 (INTERFAX-EURASIA) — The movement supporting Boris Yeltsin's nomination for presidency held its first meeting in Blagoveshchensk, Amur region, today. The regional administration chief Vladimir Dyachenko was elected to chair the movement's Coordinating Council.

Dyachenko said at a news conference that followed the meeting that Boris Yeltsin's candidacy "is consistent with our views on the future of Russia and our political expectations."

Yeltsin Reelection Committee Set Up in Stavropol

LD2101171996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1618 GMT 21 Jan 96

[By Nikolay Styazhkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] STAVROPOL, January 21 (ITAR-TASS) — A regional coordinating committee for the reelection of Russian President Boris Yeltsin was set up in the Stavropol region, southern Russia, on Sunday [21 January].

The committee is headed by Stavropol region governor Petr Marchenko who led the regional branch of the Our Home Is Russia movement during the parliamentary elections in December 1995.

Moscow, St. Petersburg Residents Think Ministers Should Resign

LD1901204996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1852 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] St. Petersburg, Jan 19 (INTERFAX) — Seventy-five percent of Moscow and St. Petersburg residents, polled by an independent analytical center based in St. Petersburg, believe the defense and interior ministers and the chief of the Federal Security Service (FSB) should resign after the events in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye, Dagestan.

25 percent of respondents in both cities believe President Yeltsin should resign, too.

Meeting journalists in St. Petersburg, center officials noted "the extreme depression of respondents" during the poll, the results of which were published on Friday.

Russia: Lifting of N. Ossetian State of Emergency Regretted

LD2101105096 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The lifting of the state of emergency one year ago and the scaling-down of the federal militia presence in the Ossetian-Ingush conflict zone has made it much harder to guarantee law and order in this region. This conclusion is contained in a report from the Provisional Russian State Committee for the Elimination of the Aftermath of the Ossetian-Ingush Conflict. The report has been sent to President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Demonstrations Against Chechen War Staged in Kazan

LD2001124596 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 20 Jan 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Protests against the Chechen war have been held in Tatarstan. A demonstration took place outside the walls of the Kremlin in Kazan. It was organized by the committee of soldiers' mothers, the union of refugees, and the Tatar social center. The demonstrators condemned the actions of the Russian power structures which, in their opinion, deliberately

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

allowed the seizure of hostages in Kizlyar and Pervomayskoye in order to drag Dagestan, too, into the senseless war.

In Naberezhnyye Chelny the Tatar Social Center held a rally at which demands were voiced calling for a halt to the drafting of Tatarstan people into the Russian armed forces, and the immediate cessation of combat operations on the territory of Chechnya and Dagestan. The rally ended with a protest motorcade along the central streets of the city.

Russia: Mikhaylovka Mine in Kursk Region Deep in Debt

LD2101150996

[FBIS Summary] Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian at 1154 GMT on 21 January carries a five-minute report on the rise in electricity charges that has pushed the Mikhaylovka ore mining and enrichment plant in Kursk region deep into debt, prompting the regional authorities to ask Moscow for help.

Mikhaylovka used to be a profitable business but now owes 122 billion rubles [R] to the local generating company, Kurskenergo. In the last quarter of 1995 it ran up an operating loss of R42 billion.

The mine is Kursk region's largest consumer of electricity, single-handedly taking 30 percent of the total. It is also the largest single taxpayer, handing over R124 billion in the first nine months of last year.

Kursk region's governor Vasiliy Shuteyev has appealed to the central government to give Mikhaylovka a 40 percent discount on its power bills. "Continuation of the present situation will lead to the enterprise's total shutdown and destabilize the regional economy," his message said.

Russia: High-Energy Source Center Constructed at Zelenograd

MM2201094296

[FBIS Summary] Moscow Russian Television in Russian at 1043 GMT on 12 January carries a 4.5-minute "Partner" program presented by Vladimir Khomyakov and devoted to the 2.5 billion electron volt high-energy source center under construction at the State Scientific Research Institute for Physics Problems in Moscow Oblast's Zelenograd.

After a brief introduction by Institute Director Nikolay Samsonov, the institute's Deputy Director Sergey Mazurenko explains the layout of the center on a model. Level One contains complex technological and engineering equipment and supply lines which ensure the functioning of the complex. Level Two, in addition to a particle accelerator, also houses a physical chemistry research center equipped with the best equipment available in the world. Camera focuses on a Perkin Elmer spectrometer said to have cost more than $1 million; an ion mass spectrometer; and a Russian-made Tsirkoniy-2 super-vacuum installation.

Video then shows the particle accelerator hall. Mazurenko explains that there will be 32 high-energy outlets, each of which will be linked to a technological or research station. The center is said to be 90-percent finished, equipment is being installed. According to Director Samsonov, the center will be operational within a year. Of the total cost of $120 million, $15 million are still needed. Khomyakov invites potential investors to get in touch with the institute. Video shows extensive footage of interior of high-energy center. Program ends with contact telephone number (095)531-13-06 displayed on the screen.

Economic Issues

Chernomyrdin To Adhere to Tough Financial Policy

LD2201095196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0836 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Artyom Protasenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW January 22 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin assured foreign investors that the government would continue its tough financial policy in 1996, although he admitted it would be difficult to do that in the year of presidential elections.

"Although it would be difficult for the government to adopt unpopular measures in the year of presidential elecitons, the cabinet of ministers is going to stick to the tough financial and credit policy", the premier said addressing the council on foreign investments on Monday.

He said the policy made it possible to bring the national economy to the threshold after which the living standards of the population would begin to grow.

"We have come close to the threshold after which the reforms will begin to bear sensitive fruit for the Russian citizens", Chernomyrdin stressed.

"The revival and the rise of the Russian economy in conditions of political stability are real and achievable goals today. This is the main result of the past year", the premier said.

"Today we have an economy of a new quality which has its own and mostly market-type sources of develop-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ment", Chernomyrdin stressed adding that the economy had become truly open and liberalised.

The anti-inflation work was "the main condition for reviving the Russian economy, as well as for creating a favourable investment climate", according to the premier.

Thanks to the tough financial policy the government succeeded to avert the traditional autumn upsurge of inflation and the figure of 3.2 percent in December was record low for the whole four years of market transformations.

The rate of decrease in the the Gross Domestic Product also dropped and the figure was only 4 percent compared to 1994. The industrial slump was three per cent compared to 21 in 1994. Many industries have recorded a considerable increase in production for the first time in 1995, the premier stressed.

Chernomyrdin Assures Investors Following Chubays Departure

LD2201083096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0756 GMT 22 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Artem Protasenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 22 Jan — There is no underlying political shift behind First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays' departure from the government and there will be no change to economic policy, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin told the latest session of the Foreign Investment Consultative Council today. But there will be adjustments to the way that privatization is carried out, he stressed. In particular, the government will move from mass privatization to individual sell-offs aimed at restructuring with the maximum possible investment.

Chubays' biggest mistakes as the government's chief economist, leading to his resignation, were the delays in paying wages and errors in privatization, the prime minister said.

Yeltsin Approves Restructuring of Industrial Debt

LD1901151796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 19 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree to allow industry's debt to the budget to be restructured, presidential aide for economic matters Aleksandr Livshits told a news conference in Moscow on Friday.

The decree, which he called "not trivial," says debtor plants making timely payments to the budget and non-budgetary funds may be entitled to have their debt deferred from January 1. But they must send proper applications to the state tax department and related financial bodies by March 15. These are to be considered within fifteen days and in the event of a positive answer, the defaulters will have to pay half of the debt over a period of two and a half years, that is, from April 1, 1996 to October 1, 1998.

Livshits stressed the measure would cover only those plants which pay their current taxes on time.

If this condition is met, he said, a decision could be taken after two and a half years to restructure the other half of the debt for another five years.

Livshits said the decree follows agreement with the state tax department and finance ministry given that the plants are unable to pay their debt at once. "It will be better if the state could recover at least 5 percent of the debt each quarter," he said. The aide said the measure could help improve the financial standing of enterprises and speed up the payment of back wages.

Russian Budget Committee Chairman: Treasury 'Completely Empty'

LD2201005796 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0030 GMT 22 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Mikhail Zadornov, Chairman of the State Duma's committee in charge of the budget, taxation, banks and finances, told an Interfax correspondent that the State treasury is now completely empty. He said the public would have proof of this when the official statement on the actual execution of this year's federal budget is out.

Zadornov thinks that the 1995 financial year was substantially better than 1994, but even the amended federal budget for 1995 turned out to be far removed from reality. Hence schemes to finance additional welfare programs or to finance restoration work in Chechnya were merely propaganda before the presidential elections on 16 June, emphasized Zadornov.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

International Affairs

Ukrainian Deputy on Moroz's Refusal To Meet Perry

WS1901133596 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Jan 96 pp 2, 10

[Report by Anatoliy Martsinkovskyy: "Why Oleksandr Moroz Did Not Want To Meet With Perry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Borys Oliynyk, head of the Supreme Council Commission for Foreign Affairs and CIS Relations, held a news conference. The official reason for the news conference was Boys Oliynyk's report on the commission's work last year. However, journalists were most interested in the attitude of the Supreme Council and B. Oliynyk toward two events, one of which took place yesterday, while the other did not — the solemn destruction of a launch silo in Mykolayiv Oblast in the presence of the defense ministers of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States, and the refusal of the Supreme Council leadership to meet U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Borys Oliynyk stated:

"I think that Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz reacted quite correctly to the proposal to meet Perry: The meeting should have been held with the three ministers, with the entire team. If we had received the U.S. minister and not received the Russian one, this would have been commented on not only in Ukraine, but also in the world..."

It was also explained (the news conference was attended by People's Deputy Stepan Khmara) that at the beginning there was no mention of a meeting with some of the ministers separately. However, there was a last moment call from Deputy Defense Minister Kostyantyn Hryshchenko, who proposed the scenario unacceptable for the Supreme Council.

Having emphasized that he was speaking not as the commission head, but as a people's deputy and citizen, Borys Oliynyk rather sharply criticized yesterday's event, the destruction of the launch silo, and the process of nuclear disarmament in Ukraine in general. "Unfortunately or fortunately, I was not a member of the parliament which ratified the treaty on the reduction of armaments in 1993," he said. "However, a treaty is a treaty, and we have to fulfill it. Nobody opposes it; rockets, particularly those propelled by liquid fuel, must be removed. However, point 5 in Chapter 11 of an appropriate resolution by the Supreme Council charged the Ukrainian president with the task of addressing appropriate international institutions and gaining their approval for the use of launch silos for peaceful purposes. To our great regret, nothing has been done..."

Furthermore, Borys Oliynyk noted that "the Supreme Council is to explain whether it is possible to change the disarmament regime requiring the destruction of all launch silos during 180 days following the first explosion, as well as to examine if this is safe for people and the environment..." Ukraine, incidentally, has a total of 176 launch silos.

Still more sharp criticism of the executive power was delivered by Stepan Khmara, who called yesterday's event a "sinister plot" and stated that the action had been prepared secretly without informing the Supreme Council and the public. S. Khmara also stated that the Supreme Council must appoint special hearings, while the General Prosecutor's Office must instigate criminal proceedings against Ukrainian Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister on Outcome of CIS Summit

LD2101110896 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, a Ukrainian delegation, which took part in the regular sitting of the Council of the CIS Heads of State in Moscow, returned to Ukraine. The delegation was led by Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma.

Commenting at journalists' request on the outcome of the summit, Ukraine's Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko pointed out the fact that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was unanimously re-elected Chairman of the Council of the CIS Heads of State. A proposal to nominate him again to that post was initiated by the Ukrainian side. Yeltsin's re-election proves that the heads of the CIS states would like him to take part in the forthcoming presidential elections and win them.

Prospects for the formation of a customs and payments unions were on the summit's agenda, Udovenko went on to say. Ukraine does not come out against the customs union, he said, but its conditions are now not to the advantage of Ukraine.

As for the payments union, we shall consider the issue when we have a full-fledged national currency.

Another set of issues was connected with peacekeeping actions in Tajikistan, Udovenko continued. Ukraine is not taking part in them and, therefore, it did not sign any documents to that effect or any other documents that were not in Ukraine's interests.

Ukraine initiated and tabled a draft agreement on cooperation in border issues between the CIS member states, Udovenko said. As regards that issue, a decision

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

was taken at the summit to focus attention on this issue on a bilateral basis. The Ukrainian side supported Georgia's stand on the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict and signed a relevant document, after it had been finalized.

It also signed a document on holding the first congress of men of culture of the CIS member states, and an agreement on ensuring tangible security for servicemen.

The Ukrainian delegation took a constructive and active stand at the summit, the foreign minister said in conclusion.

Kuchma on Moscow Mayor's Presidential Ambitions

LD1901185896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1448 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 18 (Interfax) — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma suggested that some of the statements made by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov during his visit to Sevastopol may mean that Luzhkov has launched his campaign for the Russian presidency.

At a news conference in the Interfax central office in Moscow Thursday, Kuchma commented on Luzhkov's words that Sevastopol had always been a Russian city by saying: "Maybe Luzhkov has begun a presidential campaign and he must be stopped?"

At the same time, Kuchma gave a high assessment to Luzhkov's activities as Moscow mayor. "The transformation of Moscow is astounding," he said, and praised Luzhkov as a very good economic planner.

Primakov Visit to Kiev Agreed During Talks With Udovenko

AU1901142596 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Portnykov, MOLOD UKRAYINY special correspondent, from Moscow: "Kuchma-Yeltsin: Are We Again Awaiting the Russian President?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The decision to sign the so-called "major agreement" between the two countries prior to the ultimate solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem is one of the most important results of the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents that were held in Moscow on Tuesday [16 January]. It is true, though, that quite a number of such decisions were also made during previous summits, but all of them have remained on paper, just like the Russian president's intention to visit Kiev — precisely to sign the "major agreement." Nor did Leonid Kuchma conceal his guarded attitude by reminding journalists that the date for signing the agreement had already been changed five times. It appears now that the Ukrainian side's expectations have been influenced by the presidents' decision to sack Admiral Eduard Baltin, Black Sea Fleet commander, who has turned his office into a headquarters of political struggle. He even wanted to get a people's deputy seat, having been nominated by the chauvinist association "For the Motherland" [Za Rodinu]. Yet another important resultof the talks, from the economic point of view, may be the decision by Yeltsin and Kuchma to create a standing "Marchuk-Chernomyrdin" commission similar to the "Gore-Chernomyrdin" and "Juppe-Chernomyrdin" ones that are in charge of, respectively, Russian-U.S. and Franco-Russian economic contacts. Kuchma already discussed details of the commission's work at the White House [in Moscow]: Following his meeting with Yeltsin, he had a conversation with the Russian prime minister.

Concurrently with the top-level negotiations, ministers also held talks: Valeriy Shmarov [Ukrainian defense minister] met with Pavel Grachev [Russian defense minister] and Hennadiy Udovenko [Ukrainian foreign minister] with Yevgeniy Primakov. During their last meeting, a decision was made on Primakov's visit to Kiev: The new Russian foreign minister did in fact promise to start his activity precisely from the capitals of the CIS countries. Hennadiy Udovenko stressed that his impression was that Primakov would be devoting much more attention to relations with the neighbors than his predecessor did.

Ukrainian Official Discusses Relations With Russia

AU1901174396 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[Report by Lesya Mishchenko: "Ukraine-Russia: A Working Meeting of Presidents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week, Yuriy Serheyev, chief of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Information Department, held a briefing for journalists and told representatives of the mass media about international ties between Ukraine and Russia.

During the brutal events in Dagestan, [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kuchma sent a telegram to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in which he expressed sympathy regarding the tragic events in Kizlyar. "It was with great concern and anxiety that Ukraine reacted to the tragic events in Kizlyar, where civilians — children, women, and sick people — became hostages," reads the telegram. As is known, Ukraine has always condemned such sentiments that are conducive to capturing other people's territory and murders. Ukrainians sympathize with the relatives and friends of the innocent victims

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

who found themselves in the group of hostages. Leonid Kuchma stressed that historical experience teaches the most valuable truth — any problems must be resolved at the negotiating table, without the use of force, and without innocent victims.

Meanwhile, the presidents of Ukraine and Russia met in Moscow. Concurrently, the first vice prime ministers of the two countries, Pavlo Lazarenko and Oleg Soskovets; the heads of the external political departments, Hennadiy Udovenko and Yevgeniy Primakov; and Defense Ministers Valeriy Shmarov and Pavel Grachev also met in the Russian capital. The sides intend to discuss a broad circle of issues on bilateral cooperation.

The negotiating process between Ukraine and Russia has lately been developing in a constructive way. This is testified to by the top-level meetings between leaders of our countries; contacts at the level of prime ministers and ministers of foreign affairs are also actively maintained. State delegations of Ukraine and Russia have conducted six rounds of talks aimed at settling bilateral relations. The contractual-legal foundation has been expanded and presently comprises about 150 accords in various branches, mainly economic. The text of the large-scale interstate political agreement has been initialed. In it, the clause on the recognition of territorial integrity and the confirmation of inviolability of state borders has been agreed upon.

The general political agreement between Ukraine and Russia may be signed in the very near future without an ultimate solution to the Black Sea Fleet problem. Volodymyr Horbulin, Ukrainian presidential adviser for issues of national security, pointed out that the accord on the creation of a joint Ukrainian-Russian commission for cooperation issues signed by the presidents of the two countries in the course of their meeting lays the ground for more constructive relations between our governments. The Ukrainian presidential adviser told the mass media that, during the meeting in the Kremlin, the fate of Admiral Eduard Baltin, commander of the Black Sea Fleet, was decided. It was proposed that he take another job. The presidents of Ukraine and Russia also discussed the question of the status of Sevastopol, dual citizenship, the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant, and television.

According to Volodymyr Horbulin, the meeting between the presidents that was held this week was particularly fruitful.

However, serious problems and unresolved questions remain in the relations between Ukraine and Russia. For example, no accord was reached on the concrete date for the Russian president's visit to Ukraine.

The issue of citizenship has also acquired political significance. Ukraine's position is based on principles of the international law that stipulates the state's unwillingness to grant dual citizenship to its subjects.

On 19 January, the next session of the Council of Heads of CIS States will be held in Moscow. The Ukrainian delegation will be headed by President L. Kuchma. Among the problems that will be on the agenda is the cooperation of CIS countries on border issues, which was initiated by Ukraine.

As Yuriy Serheyev, chief of the Information Administration, said at the briefing for journalists, "a precise mechanism for the proper settlement of borders must be worked out."

Neighboring states will discuss prospects for Customs and Payments unions, the concept for preventing and settling conflicts on the territory of CIS members states, and measures for preventing conflicts in Abkhazia and Georgia.

Ukraine's Kostenko Discusses Nuclear Cooperation in Prague

LD1901160396 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ukrainian and Czech delegations have attended talks in Prague on cooperation in the nuclear power engineering sector. The Ukrainian delegation was led by Yuriy Kostenko, minister of environment and nuclear safety and the Czech delegation by Milan Cerny, deputy industry and trade minister [for energy policy]. Andriy Ozadovskiy, the Ukrainian ambassador to the Czech Republic, representatives of the Czech state committee for issues of nuclear safety, and the [word indistinct] firms [words indistinct] also attended. The talks focussed on issues of licensing nuclear fuel for nuclear power station reactors and the storage of nuclear waste. Both sides expressed an interest in further developing cooperation in this sector and the wish to conclude to this end a bilateral agreement between Ukraine and the Czech Republic on cooperation in the nuclear power engineering sector.

National Affairs

President Kuchma 18 Jan News Conference

LD1901190496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1741 GMT 19 Jan 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Below is the substance of an hour-long news conference Ukrainian President Leonid

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuchma held at the head office of the Interfax news agency late on Thursday.

On Timing of Next Kiev-Moscow Summit

The Ukrainian leader said Russian President Boris Yeltsin is scheduled to visit Kiev in the second half of March.

He said Yeltsin's formal visit to Ukraine had been postponed five times because of the unresolved problems of the Black Sea Fleet [BSF]. "Most of these have been resolved by now," Kuchma said adding "we have no differences from the military point of view."

He pointed to the existence of goodwill on both sides for signing an outline political treaty. He reaffirmed that Ukraine and Russia had agreed not to link the treaty with a final solution to the BSF issue.

On Black Sea Fleet

The problem of sharing out the Black Sea Fleet does not exist, Kuchma believes.

The only unresolved issue, he said, is the status and terms of deployment of the Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Crimea, particularly at Sevastopol naval base, which Kuchma says is more of a political problem.

He warned against rushing it given that the Kiev-Moscow dialogue had been regenerated in all areas including the military one. Agreement has now been reached, he said, to continue the dialogue on Sevastopol one level of the defense ministers who are expected to meet Transcarpathia before long. Kuchma said both sides were willing to see the problem resolved as soon as possible.

At the same time he said Kiev had met all of Russia's wishes about BSF bases in Crimea. He said Sevastopol is to be BSF's main stronghold and the Ukrainian Navy's headquarters. Ukrainian warships are to be deployed in two smaller bays nearby.

Kuchma reaffirmed media reports saying BSF Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin was dismissed. He said he and Yeltsin signed an appropriate decree during a meeting on Tuesday.

Asked of what was behind the decision, Kuchma said "The military must mind their own business, not politics."

He said he and Yeltsin had a copy of the paper each.

On Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov's statement during a recent visit to Sevastopol saying "Sevastopol has always been a Russian city" to the city authorities in Moscow, Kuchma suggested the mayor may have started a presidential campaign and must therefore be stopped.

At the same time the Ukrainian leader praised Luzhkov's performance as mayor. He spoke of being astounded by how Moscow was being transformed.

On Russian CIS Presidency

Kuchma said the extension of Russia's CIS presidency for another year was justified both politically and economically. He said although the CIS charter provides for rotation CIS presidency by all member states in alphabetic order, it was not expedient to try to comply with this provision because of the continued conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

He said the CIS was useful as a consultative body whose significance would be enhanced if all member states proceed from the principle of equal partnership. The Ukrainian leader warned against seeing the body only from the angle of one's strategic interests.

On Russian General Elections

Kuchma said Kiev's relationship with Moscow would not be affected by the outcome of Russia's December election. "I do think our relations will be changed following the election. We have seen it happen in Ukraine as well, but relations with Russia remain unchanged," he said.

He was hopeful that common sense would prevail over political passions in the Russian State Duma.

"All of us will have to resolve this problem," he said implying the development of bilateral relations amid differences in parliaments on both sides.

On Russia's Presidential Election in June

The Ukrainian leader is confident that Boris Yeltsin stands a good chance of being re-elected as president.

He said it was important to Russia and other CIS states that Yeltsin comes out a winner calling on the public to adjust its mood accordingly. He said there could be no return to the former Soviet Union no matter who called for this as part of his electoral promises.

On the Russian Communist party's election platform helping it to win last month's vote, Kuchma said he was little familiar with it. "In my view, today's communists are not what they used to be," he said.

On NATO Enlargement

Kuchma opposes the idea of what he calls a revolutionary enlargement of the NATO to the east.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He said Kiev was categorically against the idea from the very start saying the two countries shared identical positions on this for some time.

He believes this must be a lengthy process developing in line with the situation shaping up first of all in Europe itself but not dividing it into two military-political blocs again. The Ukrainian leader said "we will not be able to sustain a new confrontation."

On the prospects of Russian television transmissions to Ukraine, Kuchma spoke of being supportive of the idea of the current Ukrainian language channel being turned into a joint venture.

On CIS Customs Union

Kuchma is skeptical about the CIS customs union saying Kiev is in favor of "a normal civilized shift to any form of cooperation without any phase skipping." He said all of what the union offered was unacceptable to Ukraine because of running counter to its economic interests as "indicated by most elementary calculations."

At the same time he spoke of being supportive of the idea of joint financial-industrial groups though "apart from talk, little progress has so far been made in this area." The main criterion of the state of bilateral relations, he said, is the level of economic contacts which Kuchma says are still unsatisfactory.

Military Technology Cooperation

The Ukrainian leader called for cooperation between the two countries in military technology and arms exports. "I have always offered Russia to tackle these problems together," he said. In his view the two countries would have resolved many of the conversion problems related to the military-industrial complex if they had agreed to cooperate from the beginning.

Worse still, he said, it would take Russia dozens of years to set up defense-related facilities similar to those left over in Ukraine after the break up of the former Soviet Union.

Privatization Program

Kuchma blamed last year's setback in the privatization campaign on local authorities who obstructed the transfer of state property to private owners.

The president spoke of having warned the regions about their share of responsibility.

He said the results of the 1995 privatization campaign would be discussed at a republican conference on January 24 and measures taken to ensure denationalization.

He quoted the Ukrainian finance ministry as saying the government plan on revenues from the sale of state property in 1995 was met only by 8 percent, "a preliminary figure which needs to be verified."

On Dispute With Moscow on Oil Shipment Charges

Moscow and Kiev must meet together to settle the question of charges for pumping Russian oil through the Ukrainian section of the Druzhba pipeline, Kuchma believes.

At the same time, he said Kiev was entitled to raise tariffs unilaterally.

"Russia never asks us when it increases oil prices," Kuchma said.

The latest increase in transit charges follows a rise in oil prices from $54 per tonne in 1994 to over $100 since early this year, he said.

Kuchma said the measure would cost Russia only $13 million in 1996 adding that Russian companies had agreed to Kiev's unilateral decision because of signing direct contracts on transit charges. "The Russian fuel and energy ministry which turned the issue into a political show is alone opposed to the measure," he said.

On Russian TV Transmissions to Ukraine

The president reaffirmed having discussed the issue with Yeltsin at a meeting in Moscow on Tuesday.

He said Russian Public Television, ORT, was transmitting its programs through the 3rd Channel covering 90 percent of Ukrainian territory though Ukraine, as it were, has nothing to do with it. He said the situation must be redressed and a joint venture set up for using the 3rd Channel together so that Kiev could have some influence on the programs to be transmitted. He said ORT must give greater coverage of Ukraine with programs prepared in Kiev, not in Moscow so as to create a two-way flow of information.

He spoke of reaching preliminary agreement on this and Yeltsin's approval of the idea.

Border Controls

Kuchma admitted to being concerned over the state of border and customs controls on Ukraine's frontiers and spoke of wanting to resolve the problem of CIS controls together with other member states. He pointed to a rising flow of illegal immigrants from third world countries seeking to get into Western Europe which in itself is fraught with serious "economic losses" to Ukraine. One other negative factor is an increasing number of incidents of arms and drugs smuggling into

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the country. He made it clear the setback was caused by developments in the Northern Caucasus.

Moroz 16 Jan Supreme Council Opening Speech

WS1901135096 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 17 Jan 96 pp 1-2

[Opening speech by Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz at the fifth session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council in Kiev on 16 January 1996]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed people's deputies, guests of the Supreme Council, and reporters. I would like to inform you: Within the period of time when deputies worked in constituencies and there were no plenary sessions for two weeks, the most important thing was that we implemented the instructions regarding the purchasing of New Year presents and equipment for orphanages. Everything has been sent to its destination. Both children and personnel are very happy and grateful to you. I also hope that we will establish a tradition, a certain patronage of the Supreme Council and local councils over appropriate institutions for children.

The fifth session will be extremely important and a kind of test to see how efficiently the Supreme Council works. It seems to me that the fourth session, particularly the last weeks of it, confirmed the Supreme Council's capability to work fruitfully and efficiently. We all understand: The range of issues to be discussed at the fifth session will not give us a chance to catch our breath. I would like to say this openly. The [Supreme Council] Presidium session held on 15 January confirmed this once again.

Undoubtedly, there will be principal issues. One of them will be all the issues related to the national budget for 1996. The Budget Commission and other sectoral commissions are currently analyzing sections in the budget, and have arrived at the conclusion of the necessity for deputies to perform very meticulous work on the budget. As early as tomorrow we will start discussing this extremely important issue.

Many events occurred in our society yesterday and today, which you have mentioned, including alarming events laden with a certain social tension. These events have been prompted by the situation in the municipal sector and the increase of municipal rates, as well as by the fact that the government's potential and measures aimed at social protection of the population, the payment of wages, and the like — lag behind.

The Ukrainian Supreme Council Presidium discussed this issue on 15 January 1996 and presented the Cabinet of Ministers with a short document which consists of two clauses. The essence of these clauses boils down to the fact that in light of the adoption of a number of resolutions by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers in December 1995 and January 1996 which demand substantial budget funds, the Presidium requests that the Cabinet of Ministers, along with Supreme Council commissions, discuss temporary estimates of expenditures on undertaking — for the first time in 1996 — certain measures financed by the national budget. They should also discuss whether the aforementioned Cabinet of Ministers resolutions are in line with the Ukrainian Supreme Council resolution of 22 December 1995 "On the Mechanism for Financing Ukraine's National Budget Expenditures in 1996 Before Passing Ukraine's Law on the National Budget for 1996."

We recommended that Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers suspend its resolution No. 1043 of 25 December 1995 on the regulation of salaries paid to employees of the state administration, prosecutor's offices, courts, the customs service, and other bodies until the issue of the national budget is discussed. I refer to the fact that on 22 December 1995 we approved the mechanism, that is to say the mode of the temporary use of funds, until the adoption of the budget. This is a legislative norm and no one is allowed to violate it, including the Cabinet of Ministers. During the budget debate on Wednesday, we will probably suggest enforceable acts or a short resolution determining the modus operandi of this sector of state activities in the immediate future.

The new draft constitution of Ukraine will be the second issue which we are going to discuss in the session hall. A working group is completing work on the draft. At least 30 percent or more sections have already been discussed by the working commission, which was reported yesterday and today by Volodymyr Hryhorovych Butkevych, chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Human Rights, National Minorities, and Interethnic Relations.

Lawmaking is not solely and primarily the domain of this session hall. Much work will be concentrated in the commissions. Precisely for this reason we suggest a somewhat different mode of organizing the Supreme Council's work. Incidentally, this mode fully falls within the limits of the regulations. I would like you to consider the list of proposals that have been disseminated in the session hall. It also includes the issues suggested for discussion by the Supreme Council. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the list includes more than 20 issues for mandatory discussion at the fifth session, given that our work will last for more than six months.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

All in all more than 378 issues are ready for discussion. You understand very well that such a great volume cannot be handled in the session hall. Therefore, together with the Cabinet of Ministers, we reviewed this list and selected those issues which are the most adequately prepared and vital ones for society.

In addition, you know that repeat elections to the Supreme Council were held in December 1995. A new group of deputies were elected. We discussed this issue at the Presidium' session on 15 January, and next Tuesday [23 January] we will make a decision regarding the final confirmation of their powers. I believe that nobody has any doubts in this regard. There simply exist certain formal procedures which should be clarified. Therefore, the appropriate commission has asked time to scrutinize this issue for a couple of days. I am sure that we will successfully resolve this it.

Thus, we have all grounds to begin the work of the fifth session. I would like to wish all of you fruitful work and the same persistence that you demonstrated during the fourth and preceding sessions.

Finally, I would like you to pay attention to the issue of covering the Supreme Council's sessions in the media. Two proposals have been voiced:

According to one of them, the session should be covered according to the pattern used during the fourth session. According to the other proposal, Ukrainian Radio's first program should broadcast an unabridged recording of the socially significant issues on which the Supreme Council made decisions the previous day.

Therefore, let us not overload the airwaves by incoherent issues discussed in the second reading.

Once again, I wish you fruitful work.

Moroz Favors Kuchma as Head of State

LD2001133696 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1050 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received] — In an interview in the ZERKALO NEDELI [Mirror of the Week] newspaper on 20 January, Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council said it was expedient to vest the Ukrainian president with the functions of head of state while the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine should be vested with higher executive powers. However, he said that the draft Ukrainian constitution had "set out a plan" according to which, "formally, the president was not head of the executive power although in practice he was to carry out its functions."

In Moroz' opinion, if the Constitution stipulates that the president should only be head of state then there can be two ways of electing him — by a nationwide referendum and by the parliament. He noted that "there was no point in holding direct elections for the functions of head of state," stressing that he considered this method of electing the president to be "a secondary issue since the main thing was to agree upon a clear delimitation of the state's power functions."

Commenting on the gathering of signatures for the dismissal of the president, Moroz said that "it was necessary to find other ways of exerting influence on him but without rejecting this option." "The president won power because of the left-wing forces and for this reason it was necessary to exert influence on him to prevent him abandoning his electorate," Moroz said.

Commenting on the election of Gennadiy Seleznev as speaker of the Russian State Duma, Moroz said that he was a non-radical left-winger, analyst, and publicist. "The Duma needs people like him because it will probably find it difficult to operate, while politicians like Seleznev are experienced, enjoy confidence, and are able to convince people. I met him and found him to be an interesting and intelligent person," Moroz said. (Earlier in an interview with UNIAN, Seleznev said he intended to hold a meeting with Moroz in the not too distant future in order to discuss further cooperation between the parliaments, above all regarding the economic sphere).

Former Ukrainian Navy Commander on Black Sea Fleet Control

LD1901170996 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1300 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Vice-Admiral Borys Kozhyn, a member of the Commission for Defence and State Security and a member of the People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] faction, made a statement to Ukrainian deputies, stressing that the term of joint subordination of the Black Sea Fleet to Ukraine and Russia ended on 31 December 1995, and that "joint subordination" had been a complete fiction and was used only to achieve political aims, and the collapse of the fleet and plundering of its property.

According to specialists, over four years the value of the Black Sea Fleet fell from 80 billion dollars to 20 billion dollars. Property worth 60 billion dollars was plundered and taken out of Ukraine. Ecological losses come to 20 billion dollars.

Deputy Kozhyn submitted a draft Supreme Council resolution on subordinating the Black Sea Fleet to Ukraine. In particular, the draft envisages:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

— that the Black Sea Fleet be entirely subordinate to Ukraine as from 1 January 1996 and be included in the Ukrainian Armed Forces;
— that a proposal be addressed to the Ukrainian president that he immediately issue a decree on a list of the names of admirals, generals, officers, warrant officers, and non-commissioned officers for their transfer to the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

Crimean Muslims Support Chechen Independence

LD2001152296 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1050 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol [no date as received] — At a mourning rally held in Bakhchisaray on 19 January, Ayder Ismaylov, the chairman of the Islamic Party of Crimea, called on Crimea's muslims to "unite around the misfortunes of the Chechen people."

According to a UNIAN correspondent, about 500 people took part in the rally organized by the majlis [assembly] of the Bakhchisarayskiy district in support of the struggle of the Chechen people.

The participants sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressing solidarity with the national-liberation struggle of the Chechen people. They demanded the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the Chechen Republic, that talks should begin with the Chechen Presdient Dzhokhar Dudayev, and the recognition of the independence of the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria.

A mourning requiem for the innocent victims of the Chechen war was held on the same day in the Bakhchisaray mosque.

Meshkov Returns to Crimea To Celebrate '91 Referendum

WS2201102196 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0042 GMT 20 Jan 96

[By Oleksandr Pilat and Lillia Budjorova, "Special to INTELNEWS"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol, Jan. 19 — Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov returned to the peninsula Friday [19 January] with rhetorical guns blazing, on the occasion of the anniversary of Crimea's 1991 autonomy referendum.

After arriving from Moscow by plane, Meshkov praised the Crimean Communist Party, headed by former adversary Leonid Hrach, profusely. He and Hrach held a joint press conference at which two said they will "fight to hold a referendum on dissolution of the Crimean Parliament."

They accused the parliament of selling out hopes for Crimean independence from Ukraine and restoration of the USSR. Hrach said the parliament "does not reflect the political views of people in Crimea."

Meshkov applauded the strong showing of Communists in last month's elections to the Russian Duma, and said "the Russian and Ukrainian nations will again unite into the inviolable Soviet Union. This will save Ukraine from all-encompassing poverty."

Meshkov, who was booted from office in March by a Ukrainian government decree, has been living in Moscow for the past eight months. His administration briefly attempted to institute a radical economic reform program, before infighting with the Crimean legislature thwarted the effort.

Jan. 20 is celebrated in Crimea as "Day of the Republic" in honor of a 1991 referendum in which 93 percent of Crimeans voted in favor of establishing an autonomous republic (Crimean Tatars boycotted the vote). Based on the referendum results, the Ukrainian Parliament approved formation of the Crimean republic in February 1991.

However, the autonomy agreements were eroded in 1994-95, and since last March Kiev has effectively controlled executive power on the peninsula through Crimean prime minister Anatoliy Franchuk and Interior Ministry organs.

The Crimean Parliament ordered a media blitz on Saturday consisting of printed materials on the restoration of the republic as well as a series of television and radio broadcasts.

At a ceremony Thursday, Crimean parliament speaker Yevgeniy Supriunyuk said autonomy is the peaceful alternative to "such sorrowfully known variants as the Trans-Dniestr area, Abkhazia, and Chechnya." He said Crimean autonomy in Ukraine "plays the role of stabilizing factor in the formation of the Ukrainian state itself."

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdynets, who conveyed greetings from President Leonid Kuchma, and by the Crimean speaker from 1990-93, Nikolay Bagrov.

Sergey Tsekov, Crimean speaker in 1994-95 and current leader of the Crimean Republican Party, used a much more negative tone than Supriunyuk in describing Ukraine-Crimea relations. He in a Thursday party statement that Crimea has been "torn off from its historical Motherland, Russia, by Ukrainian independence."

He also said that "upon declaration of its independence, Ukraine took the road of complete disregard of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

1991 referendum results. Ukraine undertook clearly unlawful actions — abolition of the Crimean presidency, cancellation of the Crimean Constitution, subordination of Crimean executive power bodies to the Ukrainian president and Cabinet of Ministers."

Tsekov, another of Meshkov's former rivals, met the erstwhile Crimean president at the Simferopol airport Friday. Meshkov is to return to Moscow shortly, where he says he is undergoing medical treatment.

Crimean Communist Leader Interviewed

WS1901153196 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 16 Jan 96 p 3

[Interview with Crimean Communist Party leader Leonid Hrach by Volodymyr Kolychev; place and date not given: "Leonid Hrach: 'Russia, Ukraine, the Muslim World, and NATO Will Be Dragged Into Any Crimean Conflict'" — first paragraph is VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Virtually as few as two parties able to actually influence the situation in the republic currently remain in Crimea's political arena. One of them — the Party of Economic Revival of Crimea (PEVK) — is led by the Crimean people's deputy and the "father" of the "Creation" parliamentary faction, Svenas company president Volodymyr Shevyov. The leader of the other party — the Crimean Communist Party (KPK) — is the former first secretary of the Crimean Oblast Communist Party Committee and current Crimean people's deputy, Leonid Hrach. The PEVK is strong because it has members of the republic's government and managers of large commercial organizations and industrial companies in its ranks (the people call it the party of "fat cats"), and its penetrating power is based on capital. To the contrary, things are not going too well with regard to the KPK's money, though it has the most important thing — an idea which is attractive not only for party members. After the intensification of economic reforms, every year Crimeans more and more yearn for the preperestroika days. It was no accident that representatives of the Communist Party received 40 percent of parliamentary seats during the elections to local self-government bodies. Furthermore, in the opinion of certain politicians, if elections to the Crimean Supreme Soviet were held today, communists would have approximately 75 percent of seats in the parliament. What can one currently expect from the KPK in case of its victory? An opinion about this can be formed according to KPK leader Leonid Hrach's responses to our correspondent's questions.**

[Kolychev] Ever since Ukraine became independent, the famous Crimean issue has regularly arose at negotiations between Kiev and Moscow. Summing up the results of the outgoing political year, how do you assess Russia's role in the peninsula's life?

[Hrach] First of all, I would like to point to the fact that Russia and the USSR have acted as guarantors of geopolitical stability in the world for over 300 years now. As a matter of fact, Russia has recently been driven a few centuries back, owing to the efforts by the current Russian leadership. As a result, the crisis has deteriorated all areas of life of the former empire, and the damaging foreign activities of the Russian Federation considerably contributed to the implementation of the West's, primarily U.S. plans for establishing a new world order. As for Crimea, one can confidently state that Russia's positions on its southern frontier have been considerably weakened over the past five years. Boris Yeltsin committed the most egregious mistake by signing documents in which Crimea's subordination to Ukraine was unquestioned. The "thankful" Ukraine is currently striving to join NATO. Of course, the Black Sea Fleet issue arose immediately. Various agreements reflecting the interests of the West have been signed. Otherwise, the Fleet would not have lost its combat readiness before our very eyes. And if Russia does not change its stance on the Black Sea Fleet, the latter will perish, and along with the Fleet one will have to bury the last hope for peace and stability in Crimea. I do not exaggerate it at all. Do not forget about the Islamists' victory in Turkey. No conflict in Crimea will remain local — Russia, Ukraine, the Muslim world, and NATO will immediately be dragged into it.

What does Crimea currently represent? Not long ago it was a common spa for the USSR, and now mainly racketeers rest here. The agricultural complex, of which the entire country was once proud, is ruined, and the population has become poor.

[Kolychev] Thus, the following quite reasonable, classic question arises: "What is to be done?"

[Hrach] We have no right to cross the boundary, after which a regular war awaits us. We must find a formula for a new union of states (Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan — Volodymyr Kolychev). We cannot allow the Belovezhskaya forest agreement [dissolving the USSR] to hang over us like a Damoclean sword. We should correct this tragic error.

[Kolychev] Many Russian politicians have visited Crimea over the past four years, starting with Rutskoy and ending with Zatulin. How do you assess their role in resolving the contradictions between Moscow and Kiev?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Hrach] One cannot speak about them as serious politicians. Moreover, they did not go to Crimea "to search for peace," but to pursue quite specific personal economic interests. These Russian emissaries, by betting on [former Crimean President] Yuriy Meshkov, merely wanted to "obtain" something from Crimea. Their joint efforts discredited the Russian idea and made it absurd, and we currently have what we have — poverty and apathy of the overwhelming majority of deceived Crimeans.

[Kolychev] A few words must be said here about the pro-Russian Republican Movement of Crimea (RDK), which later transformed into the Republican Party of Crimea [RPK]....

[Hrach] We predicted that the RDK/RPK would sooner or later degrade itself. The "Rossiya" parliamentary bloc once had 55 votes of a total number of 98. As the saying goes, they had the majority stake in their hands. The bloc has recently split into small pieces, and its former members now vote against the RDK/RPK.

[Kolychev] Let us talk about the role of personalities in Crimea's history. Was former Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov able to somehow influence the relationship between Kiev and Moscow?

[Hrach] Meshkov is a man of slogans. He did not know Crimea and had no practical experience in management, and this is why the former president did not manage to arrange normal, working relations with Kiev. In Moscow he was recognized as a mere aide to one of the members of the presidential team. The Kremlin got off with sending to Crimea Prime Minister Yevhen Saburov, who came to us to write poems, as later became clear.

[Kolychev] What is your attitude toward the former speaker of the Crimean parliament, Serhiy Tsekov?

[Hrach] One should not put him in the same row with Meshkov and other leaders of the pro-Russian movement. Yes, Serhiy Tsekov initially followed Meshkov, as the saying goes, but when he saw that the latter established ties with criminal organizations, he immediately turned against him.

[Kolychev] PEVK leader Volodymyr Shevyov has become a noticeable figure on Crimea's current political Olympus. What can you say about him and his organization?

[Hrach] The party led by Mr. Shevyov is the main traitor of the Russian interests in Crimea. It was the PEVK that devised a "palace revolution" within the parliament — it divided the "Rossiya" bloc from the inside, won over some deputies, and conceived the ouster of Serhiy Tsekov. The PEVK is the main destabilizing force in the Crimean Supreme Soviet because, as the Moscow media said, it is comprised of people with "dark spots on their uniforms." The newspapers have already written about PEVK leader Volodymyr Shevyov. This man with a criminal past was once treated with affection by former Crimean Supreme Soviet Chairman Mykola Bahrov, which secured his initial political capital. By the way, as recently as yesterday Mr. Shevyov helped to place [Crimean Prime Minister] Anatoliy Franchuk in a high-ranking office and hugged him, and today he "pushes" Anushavan Danelyan to the office of prime minister, to treat him in the same manner as he did Franchuk after a certain period of time.

[Kolychev] What is currently heard most often is that Sevastopol residents are complaining that Russia has abandoned Crimea. Do you, think so, as well?

[Hrach] No, I do not. Russia has not yet completely given up Crimea. And until the "Crimean" issue is resolved at the highest level, tension will remain in relations between Moscow and Kiev.

Economic Issues

Ukrainian Airline Deal With U.S. Companies Criticized

WS1901133096 Kiev VECHIRNIY KYYIV in Ukrainian 16 Jan 96 p 3

[Article by Svitlana Synyakova: "'Aviablasko,' or Contract for Transoceanic Grabitization of Ukrainian Civil Aviation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **On 27 December 1995, People's Deputies Mykola Petrenko and Mykhaylo Ratushnyy petitioned the Ukrainian prosecutor general for an investigation into an affair which, in their opinion, bears signs of a crime. "We did not want to rush; we collected documents and consulted experts," the deputies say. "But one of the Kiev newspapers of a certain orientation published an article that day, from which we understood that our prudence was already useless, information was leaked, and certain people and structures learned about our investigation and took countermeasures. This was the last straw, as the saying goes."**

What made the people's deputies worry? To put it in one word — an agreement, or more precisely — two versions of one agreement.

We have already seen something similar. It is worth recalling the three versions of one edict on trust companies. However, the point here is not money of individual citizens, but their, meaning our, common property — the Avialiniyi Ukrayiny state-owned airlines.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

It was on behalf of this state company that its president, Mr. Ilyin, signed an agreement on setting up a joint venture with the U.S. Crusader Holding Worldwide Limited company in New York last October. Why in New York? Perhaps because in Ukraine a state-owned company has no right to set up joint ventures. So, according to the agreement, the newly born joint venture was meant to be a strictly U.S. organization, to which, however, a splendid lien would belong in Ukraine: the property of Avialiniyi Ukrayiny worth $100 million (one hundred million U.S. dollars). Given the average price for a somewhat fatigued TU-154 plane amounting to around $2 million, this means that our side pawns not only Ukraine's entire air fleet to the other side, but also all Ukrainian airports with their entire property. At least, this is what experts claim. And what do we receive in exchange? In exchange, within 90 days the U.S. Crusader is to receive a loan against security in the form of property to purchase two Boeings. However, they will be bought not for the joint venture, but for another company provisionally called VVS. It will be the VVS that will become the owner of the Boeings, and (sic!) will lease them to the joint venture.

It is unknown in whose wise head this brilliant combination was born. However, the agreement was prepared by the Broadway-based Yanoff & Gurevich, P.C. company, and signed by the Crusader president, Mr. Gurevich, for the U.S. side. Incidentally, Crusader's address is identical as that of Yanoff & Gurevich. Draw your own conclusions, but take into account the fact that both sides pay the money for the joint venture's charter fund to Yanoff & Gurevich. And while Avialiniyi Ukrayiny give its $25,000, the owner of Yanoff and Crusader will simply transfer this amount from one pocket to another.

It is no less interesting that having received the $100-million loan against security in the form of Ukrainian property, the same owner additionally becomes the owner of another $49-million loan. So, for a mere $25,000, which he pays to himself, he receives almost 2,000 times as much money.

These piquant details are not all. For example, Article 2.2 of the agreement envisions the establishment of a charter fund, but the words "charter fund" are replaced with "initial capital" in Article 2.3, owing to which the joint venture's liability will be reduced to $50,000 in case of its bankruptcy. This means that if the joint venture declares itself bankrupt, it will pay liabilities amounting to a mere $50,000 (including for the loan). The rest (let us recall that the loan is granted against Ukrainian security) will be exacted from Avialiniyi Ukrayiny, after seizing its property and putting it "under the hammer." The two Boeings, however, will not be impounded, because they are leased from other organization. So, the Ukrainian side will pay in full for the operations of the joint venture, at the same time as the U.S. side runs a risk of losing a mere $25,000.

By the way, paragraph 2 of Article 2.3 in the Russian translation says something completely different than what it says in the English version of the agreement. While in the first case the talk is about some murky "financial compensation in the form of loan," completely different things are written in the English version: the talk is about pawning the property of Avialiniyi Ukrayiny, the $100-million loan, purchasing the planes...

It should be said that the agreement was registered with our consulate. And the Ukrainian consul in New York, Mr. Korniychuk, personally confirmed the "accuracy of the translation" of the agreement from English into Russian. Why did he do that? Nobody knows. Perhaps he does not know either Russian or English quite well. Or, perhaps, somebody hypnotized the consul to make him sign the agreement.

Everything can happen in the world. For example, we previously knew that the hard currency earned by our Black Sea Shipping Company [Blasko] and air lines went to the common Soviet coffers in Moscow. We thought it was enough to win independence, and all of it would flow to Ukraine. This is not true. It still ends up in some remote place, on foreign accounts, as the saying goes.

Or, let us take privatization. Many beautiful promises have been voiced from the highest rostra to the effect that all Ukrainian citizens will receive equal portions of state property. You will perhaps receive a voucher. But property... The hard currency-bearing ships of the Black Sea Shipping Company sailed far away from us. And it took much less time for them sail than to investigate the tangled knot of the Blasko case. The civil aviation sector is now going to wave us goodbye with its wings. According to the agreement singed in New York, all rights to control the joint venture's routes, and these are virtually all international routes of Ukraine, are handed over to some third U.S. company, which although it does not participate in the process of equipping the company, it receives colossal financial and political possibilities, including the possibility of "running" the joint venture until a complete fiasco occurs. This does not pose a threat to the third company, and we have already mentioned what will be the consequences of the joint venture's bankruptcy for Avialiniyi Ukrayiny.

People's Deputies Mykola Petrenko and Mykhaylo Ratushnyy have just begun their investigation. They have so far not managed to establish what is said in Article 11, which does exist, but is omitted in the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

agreement. The legislators are very interested what the bright and inventive authors of the so-called joint venture decided to conceal from the owner of Avialiniyi Ukrayiny — our state. They also are interested in the authors themselves. The deputies have already revealed that a letter of intent concerning the agreement was signed not only by official representatives of Avialiniyi Ukrayiny Messrs. Ilyin and Kravets and Crusader owner Gurevich, but also by Messrs. Vaksman and Hazaryan, whose address is listed as the legal address of the joint venture, even though neither Mr. Vaksman nor Mr. Hazaryan are participating in the deal. Additionally, Mr. Ilyin previously accused the two U.S. businessmen of causing particularly great damage to Ukraine. Our lawmakers also have learned that the unknown Mr. Zhuk who was involved in the drafting of the agreement for the Ukrainian side is a U.S. and not Ukrainian citizen. Therefore, our people's deputies have concluded that the agreement was drawn up by U.S. citizens for both sides. Moreover, they received all necessary financial and economic information about the condition of both Avialiniyi Ukrayiny and the entire Ukrainian civil aviation sector.

Meanwhile, "well-informed sources" in Kiev are disseminating "information" that the contract with the U.S. Crusader company, as "Ilyin himself" believes, is very advantageous for Ukraine, and that according to the agreement, Avialiniyi Ukrayiny will receive the $100-million loan against "its own, and not state guarantees." Has Mr. Ilyin really forgotten what he signed? Or has he decided that the state-owned company he runs is actually not state-owned? Or, perhaps, there is a third version of the agreement on the joint venture which has not yet been found by the people's deputies?

There are many riddles in this story. According to Mykola Petrenko and Mykhaylo Ratushnyy, the Yanoff & Gurevich company is already conducting its work aimed at placing shares in the joint venture on the U.S. stock exchange, although Ukrainian law permits this only if our National Bank and Ministry of Finance consent. And neither our domestic nor transoceanic businessmen have requested such permission. As the saying goes, they have ignored Ukrainian state institutions.

Perhaps this is no accident. It is perhaps no accident that our currency is ending up in other people's accounts. Nor will it be an accident if some day our president departs from Boryspil Airport, and there will be no place to return. Boryspil will no longer be ours, and we will have to land either on the Dnepr or Kiev reservoir....

Kuchma Says Local Authorities Hindering Privatization

WS2201103196 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0600 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan. 18 — President Leonid Kuchma said local authorities are to blame for failure to implement privatization objectives.

Local authorities are hindering transfer of state-owned businesses to private property, Kuchma said Thursday [18 January] in Moscow. He said that 1995 state revenues from privatization were just 8 percent of those projected, "and this situation needs to be cleared up."

The president said Ukraine's regions "have been already warned about responsibility." Kuchma said on Jan. 24 a Cabinet session is scheduled to be held on the results of privatization in 1995 and further measures on state-owned property denationalization will be taken.

Ukraine: Supreme Council Adopts Bill on VAT Changes

WS1901095696 Lvov INFOBANK in English 1205 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From "News Service" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On January 16, Ukraine's parliament passed the first reading of a bill regarding changes and additions to several tax laws.

Commenting on the approved changes in an interview with INFOBANK, a [member] of the parliamentary commission for finances and banking activities, Serhiy Teryokhin, said that parliament's decision will allow businesses to be promptly reimbursed if VAT paid for production expenditures exceeds the amount of VAT received by businesses from the price of products sold. In order for the reimbursed funds to be repaid to businesses promptly, it has been proposed that all VAT revenues be concentrated into the national budget.

Mr. Teryokhin explained that until now VAT was like a part of the turnover tax and that businesses had essentially credited the national budget from their own current assets.

Ukrainian Presidential Aide: Economic Situation 'Grave'

LD1701134796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1258 GMT 17 Jan 96

[By Mikhail Melnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, January 17 (Itar-Tass) — "Ukraine is in an extremely grave economic situation and gradually rolling downhill towards colonial

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

countries. Only 25 per cent of enterprises can be called stable", this conclusion was made by Sergey Pogorelov, head of the Council of employers and manufacturers under Ukraine's president.

During a press conference Pogorelov said that over the preceding one and a half year cast-iron production has fallen by one a half times, polyethylene by 92 times, machine-building products by 2.4 times, tractors by 6.2 times, TV-sets by 6.8 times and shoes by 2.6 times.

According to Pogorelov, there is no branch of industry, which can be called more or less profit-earning. On the whole, circulating assets across the country stand at 4.4 per cent, at a time when they should exceed 50 per cent.

Pogorelov holds the view that there is an urgent need to radically change the taxation policy. Ukraine's president, he emphasized, agrees with the council's opinion. Now the parliament is left to be convinced. The head of state will suggest to the Supreme Soviet to establish a new system of taxation, which would envisage lowering taxation rates on indigenous production and raising excise and customs duties on imports.

Pogorelov also said that the Council has recommended to Leonid Kuchma not to carry out monetary reform, since there is even no 'hint' of any improvement in the economy.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Belarus

Belarus: Supreme Soviet Chairman on Parliamentary Tasks

LD1901173296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, Jan 19 (Interfax-West) — The main task of the new Belarusian parliament is "the formation of a law-based state," chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Semyon Sharetskiy told reporters in Moscow on Friday.

He also said that he will "uphold the ideas of creating a market, socially regulated society," in which the state should set the necessary directions and hold "key positions." He also favored a mixed economy and a reasonable combination of state and private property.

Speaking about Belarus' independence, the speaker said that in this case "the degree of cooperation and independence is important. At the same time it is also necessary to be guided by state interests."

"One should not think that we can be independent of Russia — it is impossible," he said, because "80 percent of imports to Belarus come from Russia."

Belarus: KGB Opens 'Confidential Phoneline'

LD2101160796 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0500 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] BELTA [news agency] has been informed by the KGB press service that another possibility has emerged for citizens of the republic to make a real contribution to the fight against crime. A 24-hour confidential phoneline has been installed at the State Security Committee. The number is 299299. Even if the call is incorrectly addressed, the caller will be told where to address his problems.

Belarus: Rocket Base Commanders Steal 8 kg of Platinum

LD1901214396 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Belarusian Military Procurator's Office is dealing with a serious case. It has concluded a check on one of the missile technology storage bases. As a result of the check, the commander and the deputy commander of the base have disappeared to an unknown destination.

[Correspondent Aleksandr Stupnikov] The missile technology base is situated in Kolosovo, near Minsk. Formerly it was called the 25th Arsenal of the Soviet Union Strategic Rocket Forces. So far the only fact that the procuracy has made public is that almost eight kg of platinum were stolen from this base. Although no other facts have been reported, it is known that thefts at the base continued for five years. The Belarusian military procurator has already instituted a desertion case against the commander of the base and his deputy.

The procurator's office experts came to the conclusion that the commanders are already beyond the borders of the republic. But one does not have to be a great expert to find one's road in life, especially if it is paved in platinum.

Moldova

Snegur-Led Delegation Departs for CIS Summit

AU1901174196 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2120 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, January 18 (INFOTAG) — Moldovan President Mircea Snegur left to Moscow today to attend a CIS summit of heads of state.

Moldova will participate in discussing only economic issues on the agenda, staying away from military-political debates.

The Moldovan delegation includes Deputy Prime Minister Valentin Kunev, who is the republic's representative in the CIS Inter-State Economic Committee.

Aide Explains Moldova's Stance on CIS Customs Union

LD2101124396 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the conference of the heads of state of the Commonwealth in the Great Kremlin Palace on 19 January, not the least of the matters discussed was the problem of the creation of a customs union. As is known, three more states have joined it: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Our correspondent Georgiy Savtsov tried to ascertain Moldova's position. Here is the view of Moldovan presidential adviser Victor Josu:

[Begin recording] [Josu] Moldova's attitude to the customs union and the payments union is that we, just like Ukraine, believe that for us at this stage any steps to directly join the customs union would be premature. We take it that the questions that arise should today be settled at the level of bilateral or perhaps trilateral relations. Since we have no direct borders with the Russian Federation but only a transit across Ukraine, we would prefer to tackle these matters today at the level of bilateral and trilateral relations. After all, it is no secret that even the countries that have already signed the customs union, even Belarus, have run into a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

whole range of problems that to a greater or lesser extent have painfully hit the domestic Belarusian market. This is also connected with the outflow of goods because of the difference in prices between Belarus and the Russian Federation and a few other matters. For this reason we are in no hurry.

[Savtsov] Does this mean that Moldova will orientate itself more toward the West than toward the East?

[Josu] We are bound to take into account the balance of interests, that is to say, under no circumstances to sever relations with the eastern market, and what is more to develop and deepen them, but on new, on market principles. But, of course, as far as possible we must also move toward the development of economic relations, above all with Western Europe. [end recording]

Russian Commander Denies Missile Transfer to Dniester

AU2001183096 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2200 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 18/1/1996 (BASA-press) — Gen. Valeriy Yevnevich, commander of the Dniester-based Russian troops, categorically denied the news spread by BASA two days ago that the Russian troops intended to give Dniester jet missiles for Grad and Uragan launchers. BASA relayed that such an order was given by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev.

Yevnevich stated at a meeting with representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited in Chisinau today that "the BASA-press news agency collects information at the garbage bin or at the markets of Chisinau and Tiraspol," declaring he is in the right "to sue the agency, where dishonest journalists work." Gen. Yevnevich said he would inform Minister Grachev to take strict measures.

Quoting military sources in Tiraspol and Chisinau, BASA relayed two days ago that Russian troops command intended to give Grad rockets to Dniester on the ground that their shipment to Russia is technically difficult and extremely expensive.

Diplomatic Heads Visit Russian Troops in Dniester

AU2001183196 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2200 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol 18/1/1996 (BASA-press) — Heads of the diplomatic missions accredited in Chisinau visited the Tiraspol-based Russian troops.

Valeriy Yevnevich, Russian troops commander, told BASA that the visit was organized by the Russian Embassy to Moldova to get the diplomats familiarized with the situation inside the Russian military troops.

"We have no secrets. We are an ordinary Russian military subdivision," said Gen. Yevnevich. "This has nothing to do with the Russian Defense Ministry's intention to reorganize the troops into peacekeeping forces," he said, adding: "such a task can be assigned only by the Russian Defense Ministry or the Russian Government. We have not received such a directive yet.... If such an order is made, it will be first negotiated between Russia and Moldova."

The diplomatic mission heads visited the 59th Motorized Division and the Military Training Center. The diplomats were shown various military equipment, including tanks, anti-aircraft weapons, and armored vehicles.

Dniester President Smirnov Signs New Constitution

AU2001183496 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2120 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, January 18 (INFO-TAG) — The president of the unrecognized Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov, signed the text of the region's new Constitution on Wednesday [17 January].

The signing ceremony took place in the Supreme Soviet (Parliament) building, at the joint sitting of both old and new parliamentarians. The new Constitution was adopted through a referendum, which was held simultaneously with the region's parliamentary elections on 24 December.

The Constitution proclaims Dniester "a sovereign, independent, democratic, and law-governed state."

Maracuta Reelected Tiraspol Supreme Soviet Speaker

AU2001183396 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 2120 GMT 18 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tiraspol, January 18 (INFO-TAG) — Grigore Maracuta was reelected chairman of the Dniester Parliament on Wednesday [17 January], after 49 of 63 deputies had voted for him.

Maracuta was one of three alternative candidates. His rivals were professor Vasiliy Yakovlev, president of the Tiraspol University, a hard-line communist, and Vladimir Bodnar, deputy chairman in the previous parliament.

Grigore Maracuta is 53 years old, and one of the founding fathers and a chief initiator of the self-styled republic. In previous years, he was a communist party apparatchik, having reached the post of the first secretary of the CPSU [Communist Party of the Soviet Union] committee of the Kamenka area.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Unlike the irreconcilable left-wing Bloc of Patriotic Forces, Maracuta is inclined to continue a dialogue with the Moldovan leadership. He is for preserving the integrity of Moldova, but on one condition — "Chisinau shall recognize the statehood of the region and agree to build relations with it on a contract basis."

As for the Moldovan authorities, they are ready to grant a broad autonomy to Dniester — but inside Moldova.

Vladimir Atamaniuk, a Dniester military officer, was elected deputy chairman of the parliament.

The Dniester Supreme Soviet consists of the upper chamber of representatives (35 deputies) and the lower chamber of the legislature, which is to have 37 members, but has only 32, so far.

Candidates from the remaining five electoral districts failed to be elected on 24 December.

By the new Constitution, the forum shall work for four years. There is no clear-cut distribution by political parties in it.

Local observers point out that Vasiliy Yakovlev's bloc, which is desperately against both the Chisinau-Tiraspol dialogue and any market-oriented reforms, failed at the elections. These forces now have only five-six representatives in the new Parliament. Most seats in the forum belong to people of deeds — directors of Dniester industrial enterprises and collective farms.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Hails Customs Union With Russia, Belarus

LD2001100996 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev believes that the signing of a customs union between Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus is the most important achievement along the path to the integration of the CIS countries.

He said the creation of such a union has made it possible to increase Russian-Kazakhstan trade turnover by half.

Experts Detect Prospects To Find More South Kazkah Gold

LD2001075096 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 12 Jan 96 p 5

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Southern Kazakhstan has about 300 gold-bearing rivers and 915 gold deposits and placers. Recently, the issue of developing gold extraction has become an increasingly popular topic for discussion in the republic. According to some estimates, gold could have an economic impact comparable with that expected from the development of the oil and gas complex. It is known that Kazakhstan occupies a significant place in the world in terms of its gold reserves, but the existing information about our gold beds is not final. If additional prospecting were carried out, the republic would move further up the list of countries which have reserves and are extracting precious metals. In the minds of some specialists-geologists, today's official information underestimates Kazakhstan's actual gold potential. The well-known specialists Ruslan Ostapenko and Aleksey Topoyev, who have been working on this issue for many years, believe that in the south of the republic alone there are about 1,000 gold deposits and placers, most of which have not been entered into the State Cadaster because there has been no assessment of them by industry. [passage omitted]

At that time, attention was given above all to studying gold ore deposits. Gold placers were not studied and exploitation of a few of them was more or less left to small gold-digging artels. At the same time, in the south of the republic — which unites five regions with a total area of 800,000 square kilometers — around 300 gold-bearing rivers and valleys were recorded, after prospecting work indicated placers. Five regions are known for their gold ore reserves in southern Kazakhstan: Dzhungarskiy Alatau, Zailyskiy Alatau and Kyrgyz Alatau, Karatau, Kendyktas mountains and Chu-Iliyskiye Gory mountains. According to Ruslan Ostapenko and Aleksey Topoyev, even without taking into account the areas discovered later not far from the Kyrgyz mountain range (its northern slopes on Kazakh territory) there are altogether 915 gold deposits and placers in these five regions. And Ostapenko believes there are no fewer than 1,000 in southern Kazakhstan. He estimates that aggregate reserves of gold ore amount to more than 1,000 tonnes, and of placers — to no less than 100 tonnes. More than half of the forecast reserves are in the Kendyktas-Chu-Iliyskiye region and about another 20 percent more are in Karatau. Mr Ostapenko puts the Kyrgyz Alatau reserves at roughly 60 tonnes of gold ore and 20 tonnes of placer gold.

"However, these figures do not reflect the true picture, but just the degree of study carried out in the region so far," Ostapenko noted. "It is not ruled out that the picture might change in the future. It is necessary to carry out additional gold prospecting work, especially in Dzhungar district, which has not been studied much. Tentative calculations show that about 300 tonnes of gold were brought by mountain rivers to the porous deposits of the Alakol depression. This gives reason to expect large gold deposits in the Dzhungar mountains. The rich deposits of gold placers indicates the presence of large ore deposits — their sources. The prospects are no less promising in the other regions where there is gold — Karatau, northern Tyan-Shan and Kyrgyz Alatau." [passage omitted]

Kazakhstan Allocates More Air Time to Russian Public Television

LD1901205396 Almaty Kazakh Commercial Television in Russian 1325 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Altynbek Sarsenbayev, minister of the press and mass information, has approved a new broadcast schedule for the first quarter of 1996, which increases ORT's [Russian Public Television] air time by three hours. So, we will finally be able to watch the daily program "Utro."

Kyrgyzstan

President Akayev on Need for Referundum

LD2001200896 Bishkek Kyrgyz Television Network in Russian 1650 GMT 20 Jan 96

[Studio news conference with Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev by leading Kyrgyz and Russian media representatives and unnamed mediator — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mediator] Good evening. Our press conference is being broadcast live and is devoted to one subject — the structure of the state . The whole subject is to do with the Draft Law on Amendments to the Constitution, which is being put to a

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

referendum on 10 February 1996. Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev is here along with representatives from the leading media of Kyrgyzstan and Russia. [passage omitted]

[Deputy editor of ASABA newspaper, name indistinct, in Kyrgyz] Many articles about corruption have appeared in the press lately. We have also heard that corruption has reached the seventh floor of Government House [senior state officials]. Moreover, individuals in your entourage have been named. Will you take decisive measures against individuals involved in corruption?

[Akayev, in Kyrgyz] This is one of the most serious problems today. In my opinion, corruption and the mafia are a serious disease and are becoming an obstacle for our independent young country, for our young independent country which is in the process of standing on its feet. This is why I consider it one of my sacred obligations to take decisive measures to start the fight against corruption and the mafia from the first to the seventh floor or, to be more precise, from the seventh to the first floor. We are going to take these decisive measures. After holding a referendum and then making the role of the powers more precise — you have seen that the referendum is not being held for nothing — good regulations requiring responsibility from state employees will be introduced. Another point which should be mentioned here is that the lack of a law [on corruption] is tying our hands and feet today. For example, today there is no notion about corruption or of the mafia in our [criminal] code. For this reason we can make nobody answerable under the articles of this code. We prepared the law on making state employees answerable over two years ago and submitted it to the Supreme Council [parliament], but it has not been looked at yet. This is why, from this point of view, we are proposing to the deputies that it will be better for us if those who issue laws set aside politics, stop getting involved in politics, and adopt laws first, then we can fight it [corruption and the mafia] decisively, decisively. Without such a law, our independent young country will not be able to stand on its feet. We are bridled, like a horse, and cannot move.

[Mediator] The deputy editor of the SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA newspaper, Arkadiy Gladiol]

[Gladiol] Askar Akayevich, first of all, I would like to say literally just two words about the law on making amendments and addenda [to the constitution]. You have had time to look at the text closely but to appreciate the rather complex elements in it... [changes thought]. Still, here is one small comment, I would like to put it simply: Unfortunately, the question of land has not been included in this law, our Constitution does not permit the sale or purchase of land, these issues are also causing different interpretations. Unfortunately, the question of the Russian language has been left out. This is just my comment. I would put the question the following way: You said in your address to the nation about the forthcoming referendum that there were powers in our country which could involve us, so to speak, in more political games. The presidential elections have already shown the different political camps in our republic. They have demonstrated clearly what the situation is. In other words, everything is clear — who the people follow and what the political picture is in the regions. Still, perhaps it makes sense to name, so to speak, to announce openly the names of the people who might impede the progress of reform, hinder economic acceleration and economic reform.

[Akayev] I will answer your interesting question with pleasure. I think that your comment is worthy of note and of an answer. Usually, referendums are held only in special cases when it is necessary to decide a very serious and problematic national issue which cannot be solved through parliament. If the issue is decided through parliament by adopting a law there is, of course, no sense in putting it to a referendum. I think you have raised a very important question — why are we holding a referendum? We are holding a referendum because almost a year has passed since I submitted to parliament the Draft Law on Making Amendments and Addenda to the Constitution on 11 April. Then, I remember all this very well, then we, the Trilateral Commission — this is a group comprising one entity from each chamber of parliament and from the Constitutional Meeting — which, as president, I chaired, started work and on 19 April [1995] we introduced an agreed version of the law.

However, almost a year has passed and parliament has been unable to solve this question, giving various excuses. It is precisely for this reason that we have chosen this alternative option and are putting this issue to a referendum, so that the people, the base of state power, can make a decision and introduce complete clarity into the system of state power in our republic.

Now, concerning the question of land and language, the question of land is, certainly, a very complicated issue. I would not like to rush on this. There are questions which require that society be given time to mature. Perhaps our society has not yet matured. You know, the turning point in agrarian and land reform took place only about a year ago. The year 1995 marked a turning point in terms of the way our farmers and villagers think. They adopted, and most of them approved, the land and agrarian reform. Today, they only need assistance and they should be given the assistance they need. I think

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that in 1996 the question of private land ownership will be clarified. I do not think we should rush our people on this issue. The whole question can be solved through parliament.

The second question concerns giving Russian the status of the official language. It is over a year now since a presidential decree made Russian the official language. We have now only to enshrine it in the Constitution. I believe this question does not require a referendum because I understand perfectly well our people's frame of mind and I think the deputies could meet and discuss this question with no problem and adopt a decision on this matter. This question could easily be settled through parliament and a positive decision on this matter would be supported by the people today. I think our deputies in the Supreme Council could only gain from this, their authority would increase significantly if they adopted a resolution on this matter.

But, as for the referendum, it focuses exclusively on the problem of dividing, of clear and intelligent distribution of power between the various branches of power. This is in order to regulate the state administration system, which is precisely what the people are calling for today. When I met our people during the election campaign, they called for order in every sphere, above all in the sphere of administration. This order should be established only by way of an accurate and clear-cut distribution of powers between the various branches of power, so that each of them may devote themselves exclusively to their own work and bear specific responsibility before our people.

I would like to say, as concerns the second part of your question, that there is probably no sense in naming names [of the people hindering reform]. They are well-known and appear every week in the RES PUBLICA and STOLITSA newspapers. They are driving a wedge into our nation's unity. They are setting regions off against each other. They are provoking a political stir. And this is precisely what could put a sharp brake on our reforms and democratic transformation. You see, the experience of all the post-socialist countries has shown that where there is stability, where there is unity of nations and where laws dominate, reform and democratic transformation will be a success. This is what we are striving toward.

Tajikistan

Tajik Government Reports Opposition Cease-Fire Violations to UN

LD2001142196 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Igor Sattarov, the head of the information department of the Tajik Foreign Ministry, has announced that First Deputy Prime Minister Mahmadsaid Ubaydullayev yesterday invited Brigadier General Hasan Abaza, the head of the UN military observers in Tajikistan, to a meeting. Also present at this meeting were Deputy Foreign Minister Hamrohon Zarifov and representatives of local and foreign media.

During the talk with Gen. Abaza, Ubaydullayev expressed concern at the situation that has developed at the section covered by the 12th border unit of the Moskovskiy border detachment. He noted that over the period following the announcement of the interval in the uninterrupted inter-Tajik negotiations in Ashgabat, militants of the irreconcilable Tajik opposition had carried out 10 shellings of the 12th border unit and border posts. A total of 100 shells were fired. As a result, five border guards were wounded and one was killed.

Deputy Foreign Minister Zarifov handed Abaza a note from the Foreign Ministry that cites the cases of shelling of the Tajik-Afghan border and expresses a request that they be considered a violation of the Tehran agreement on cessation of fire and other hostile actions on the border and in the country.

Asked by correspondents whether the border violations will affect the continuation of the inter-Tajik negotiations, Ubaydullayev reiterated the commitment of the country's government to continuing the negotiations. He stressed that the government delegation is ready to do everything in its power to ensure that the negotiations bear fruit.

Tajik Mufti, Family Murdered by 'Unidentified Killers'

LD2201064696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0608 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] DUSHANBE, 22 Jan — Mufti Fatkhullo Sharifov, the spiritual leader of the Muslims of Tajikistan, and his family were murdered during the night by unidentified killers who got into their home in one of the villages of the republic's Gissarskiy District. Public opinion in Tajikistan has been shocked by these savage murders, Safar Saydov, press secretary to the president of Tajikistan, told ITAR-TASS in a telephone interview this morning. The president's spokesman described the killings as an unprecedented

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and cynical act, since the crime was committed on the first day of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. This is a terrible sin, the president's press secretary stressed.

The criminals, whose number is not yet known, got into the building and, firing from automatic weapons, killed the mufti himself, his wife, his 29-year-old son, his 18-year-old daughter-in-law, and a religious pupil — a teenager from a neighboring region of Uzbekistan, who was a guest in the mufti's house. The motives for the killings are being investigated. Heads of all the power ministries and the republic's prosecutor general have been at the scene of the crime since early morning. A high-ranking member of Tajikistan's Security Ministry noted that terrorism cannot be ruled out.

Fatkhullo Sharifov was elected mufti in December 1992 after the restoration of constitutional order in Tajikistan and the end of the civil war. He actively supported political moves made by the new leadership of Tajikistan and advocated the earliest possible settlement of the intra-Tajik conflict and national reconciliation of all Tajiks. The spiritual leader of the Muslims was also known to be a supporter of a democratic, secular state. He was opposed to interference by Islam in affairs of state. On several occasions, he stated that the role of religion should be confined to the spiritual and moral education of Muslims.

President Rakhmanov Expresses Condolences

LD2201112096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1038 GMT 22 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 22 Jan — President Imomali Rahmanov of Tajikistan today described the murder of Mufti Fatkhullo Sharifzoda late on the night of 21 January as an outrageous and cynical insult to the Islamic world and all Islamic instructions. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned at the republic's government that today, the head of state visited the place of the tragedy in the village of Lantakhorak in Hissar District, where the mufti had lived with his family. Rahmanov expressed his sincere condolences to the relatives of the dead and to the fellow villagers. He described the terrorist act, committed on the first day of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month, as at attempt to destabilize the social and political situation in the republic.

The Tajik president assured the public that the republic's government and law enforcement bodies will do everything possible to clear up the crime and detain the killers.

ITAR-TASS learned from informed sources that Tajikistan's Government is preparing a statement by the Foreign Ministry and an address to the CIS heads of state, the Islamic world, and the United Nations secretary general. The statement will explain the stance taken by Tajikistan's leadership in view of continuous terrorist acts. It will also express the hope that the CIS heads of state will take all necessary measures to put an end to the wave of terrorism on Tajik land and in other states of the Commonwealth.

Turkmenistan

Niyazov Upholds Neutrality Principle at CIS Summit

LD2201101096 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0645 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 19 Jan (TURKMEN PRESS) — The meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the CIS took place in Moscow today. About 20 questions were discussed concerning the interaction of the member-states of the CIS. [passage omitted]

The President of Turkmenistan, Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy [Niyazov], took part in the meeting of the Council of the Heads of State of the CIS. He met and had talks with a series of Commonwealth heads of state, at which the President of Turkmenistan expressed his sincere gratitude to the leaders of the CIS states for their support for and cooperation in the UN General Assembly decision to recognize the permanent neutrality status of Turkmenistan. "We consider all those who supported us in this historic step for Turkmenistan to be not only like-minded, but the co-authors of the UN resolution," the leader of Turkmenistan said.

Touching on the themes of the further participation of Turkmenistan as a neutral state in the affairs of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Saparmyrat Turkmenbashy emphasized that he was and remains deeply committed to cooperation in the CIS framework, regarding this cooperation as a highly important and essential component in the integration of the contemporary world. The neutrality of Turkmenistan allows it to raise its participation in integration processes to a higher level, S. Niyazov said.

The meetings showed the great interest of Commonwealth leaders in Turkmenistan's policy of neutrality. The President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, praised this policy, having emphasized that permanent neutrality status was a huge success for Turkmenistan in the world arena and confirmation of the high authority enjoyed in the world community by the leader of the Turkmen state, Saparmyrat Niyazov. B.N. Yeltsin again confirmed that Russia sees Turkmenistan as its most stable and reliable partner. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Turkmenistan Issues Joint Communique on Karimov Visit

LD1901180896 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 18 Jan 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Joint Communique following the visit by President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan:

President Islam Karimov of the Republic of Uzbekistan paid a working visit to Turkmenistan at the invitation of President Saparmurad Niyazov on 16 January 1996.

During the meeting the heads of the two fraternal states exchanged opinions on the state of bilateral relations and the prospects for their development and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The presidents Islam Karimov and Saparmurad Niyazov emphasized in particular that Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are bound by old historic ties, a common culture, common traditions and customs.

The parties expressed satisfaction with the development of Turkmen-Uzbek cooperation based on principles of neighborly relations, equal rights, and mutual benefit. It was underlined that the economic and cultural ties forged over centuries between the two nations and the traditions of friendship and fraternity are their greatest asset and should be carefully preserved and multiplied.

The parties emphasized that the development of political, economic and cultural links between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is an important area of foreign policy for both states being carried out on a large scale and on a long-term basis. Broad cooperation and close contacts between them will help consolidate their sovereignty and build the foundations for an independent national economy. An agreement has been reached on organizing Uzbek culture and arts festivals in Turkmenistan and Turkmen culture and arts festivals in Uzbekistan.

The fact that there are no moot points in relations between Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is a reliable guarantee of their steady development.

Issues involving further development and intensification of regional trade and economic partnership were discussed in the course of the meeting. It was noted that this process meets the fundamental interests of both states.

The heads of both states reached concrete agreements on resolving regional ecological problems related, first and foremost, with the consequences of the Aral Sea tragedy.

Presidents Islam Karimov and Saparmurad Niyazov noted the importance of holding regular consultations between foreign ministries and stressed that cooperation within the framework of international organizations was important for their respective countries.

The Uzbek and Turkmen sides were unanimous in saying that, first and foremost, security at the regional level was the principle condition for successful implementation of social and economic, political and democratic reform. In this context, particular attention was drawn to strengthening stability in Tajikistan and the beginning of a peace process in Afghanistan.

Presidents Islam Karimov and Saparmurad Niyazov stressed that only through political means, and only if the sides displayed goodwill and readiness to compromise sensibly would it be possible to achieve the goals set out. The parties supported the holding of the next round of inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabat under UN aegis.

The presidents confirmed their resolve to coordinate joint efforts in fighting organized crime, drug trafficking and illegal sale of arms.

A number of important inter-state and inter-government accords and agreements covering such fields as transport links and communications, joint exploitation of natural resources, the power sector, inter-bank accounting, customs procedures, education, science and culture were signed during the meeting. The inter-state Agreement on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance between the Republic of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is a fundamental document.

The sides expressed satisfaction with their meeting, held in the spirit of traditional friendship and mutual understanding.

President Islam Karimov confirmed his invitation to President Saparmurad Niyazov to pay an official visit to Uzbekistan. The invitation was gratefully received. Chardzhou 16th January 1996

Uzbekistan

President Karimov on Results of CIS Summit

LD2101093196 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of State [in Moscow on 19 January] was the main political event o. the past few days. Here is our correspondent with the details:

[Unidentified correspondent] This was the 20th summit of the leaders of the Commonwealth [of Independent States] countries, and, as always, the forthcoming meeting was surrounded by lots of suppositions about how relations among the states, which formed a single unit for 70 years, would develop in future. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

An interview with the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, which he gave after the Moscow meeting, contains more details on the work of the council of CIS heads of state and the proposals that our country put forward:

[Begin recording] [Karimov] I would say that the conference of heads of state proceeded on a very constructive basis. The reason for this is that all the issues — the majority of issues — were considered very attentively well in advance, at all levels, and at bilateral meetings. For example, I think my meeting yesterday with the Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin in many respects predetermined the common nature of our approaches, the approaches of Uzbekistan and Russia, to the matters under discussion. Therefore, if all the issues are divided up into several groups, on virtually all the issues our proposals, which were agreed in advance, all went through.

The first group of issues was the fact that we must keep Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin as president — not president, but chairman of the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth, the CIS — for the next term, 1996. That was backed unanimously. I also supported that idea, together with the others. Most importantly, I made my own contribution by stating that in the situation currently developing in Russia, among all the candidates — and for some reason their number is growing so large with every passing day that it is hard to know what is going on out there — everybody who feels like it wants to become president today, and I do not think that is a very good sign. Only a worthy man can become president, and I would go so far as to say that not only a president, but even a presidential candidate, must be a worthy person. There must be some yardsticks, restrictions and criteria to separate the candidates so as to avoid creating chaos in the minds of the Russian people.

By supporting Yeltsin for another term as chairman of the CIS council, we were thus expressing our attitude to the future presidential candidate. In this case, I said openly: When I support your candidacy today for the post of CIS chairman, I am thus making no secret of the fact that I support your candidacy for the post of president of Russia.

If you were to ask me today, simply as a person who probably has the right to express his opinion — I do not have a vote, and I do not intend to influence anybody or to demand anything from anybody — I am simply expressing my own opinion, which is that among all the men in the state [gosudarstvennyye muzhi] who are currently laying claim to the job, the most acceptable to Uzbekistan, its interests and its present and future is Yeltsin. This is because you always choose from what is available. We cannot create some kind of symbolic figure and make comparisons with that symbolic figure. We always compare candidates with one another. I tell you this: Against the background of all the candidates who have already declared their intentions and who might declare themselves tomorrow, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, with all his merits and for all his shortcomings, which everybody has, is the most suitable man for us. If you ask me, I would support this candidacy.

The second group of issues that was discussed was the customs union. Our attitude here is clear. We are in favor of removing all barriers to creating a common economic area: Artificial barriers, customs duties, customs borders, all those searches, checks, and so on. We are in favor of getting rid of them. Therefore, we are for joining the customs union, but only as long as our demands and conditions are met. We cannot agree to any linkage between the customs union being set up and our borders being defended by Russian Border Troops. We will not accept that. We are capable of defending our own borders and that is what we will do — the sole qualification is that we will do so in coordination with the Russian Border Troops. Another point is that our accession to the customs union must have absolutely no impact on our foreign and economic policy — in the sense that what it is profitable for us to export and what we have to import should not be subject to influence and diktat from outside. There must be no diktat here. What there must be is benefit and interest — identical and acceptable both to Uzbekistan and to Russia and to the states that join.

The third group of issues concerned Tajikistan. Our demands and conditions regarding Tajikistan were as follows. The question of extending by six months the presence of both Russia's Armed Forces and our contingent and the Kazakh and Kyrgyz contingents on the territory of Tajikistan was raised. I have talked about this several times, and I want to repeat today that I laid down conditions at this conference: You can extend their term as often as you like, but ultimately everything has to come to an end. First, each country must defend its borders by itself. Second, if we want to carry on keeping our Armed Forces there, it must be on condition that the Tajik leadership listens to our advice. We have absolutely no desire to influence their policy or the dignity or self-esteem of [Tajik President] Emomali Rakhmanov or his — let us say — sense of his own dignity or his own understanding. We have a respectful attitude to that sovereign state and its elected president — elected by everybody.

However, since our help is needed, they must also accept certain of our conditions. Our conditions are sim-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ple: The sooner this inter-Tajik confrontation ends, especially on the Afghan border with Tajikistan, the happier we will be, because this could be extended indefinitely. Therefore, two conditions must be met. A flexible policy must be pursued in the inter-Tajik negotiations and for this reason I have proposed setting up a conciliation commission, to include representatives of the government, the united opposition, the United Nations, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Other matters were discussed, but on none of the other matters were there any fundamental. [sentence as heard]. I should like to say something about one subject, Abkhazia. The Abkhaz issue and the question raised by Georgia were discussed in advance. Each of us had his own opinion on the subject, but I am glad that I expressed Uzbekistan's view and, if you like, did my little bit to ensure that this decision was adopted. I spoke three times today on this matter. My opinion was based on one fundamental point: Until we adopt a clear affirmation, until we act on the basis that Georgia is a single, indivisible state and that Abkhazia may belong to it in whatever capacity it likes — that is for them to decide — and until we recognize Georgia's borders as indivisible and unified, we will not agree on anything there.

Therefore, it must be written down that Abkhazia is an integral part of Georgia and that all states that now enter into relations with Abkhazia and the people who live there — they have also got to be fed, for they are people, irrespective of whether they are Abkhaz, Georgian, Russian, or whatever — they have to be fed and provided for — but all these processes must go through the Georgian Government. Only on this condition will there be an end to that inflated separatism and, ultimately, to all those terrorist measures, not only in Abkhazia and Georgia but also throughout that region and, if you like, on the whole territory of the former USSR, and only then will there be peace. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Armenia

Armenia: Problems With Power System Described

NC2101170396 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1439 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 01/16/96 — Hydro- and thermal power plants in Armenia have been built some 30 years ago, and have become used up during this period, ROA [Republic of Armenia] Ministry of Energy reported.

Power system too, is far from being ideal. Thermal plants of Yerevan, Hrazdan, and Vanadzor are currently producing less then their projected power production rate.

One of the most powerful power sources is the Hrazdan thermal power plant. A new, 5th block is currently built, with 300 MWt power production rate. It will be consuming less fuel and producing more power.

The same sources reported in regard with the Armenian Nuclear Plant, that most of its equipment was renewed, when possible, and it will serve for another 10-15 years, until it becomes used-up.

The losses in the power system are too great in Armenia. They should be within the range of 8-10 percent, based on the international standards. This figure is usually within 16-18 per cent in CIS countries, but it was about 40 per cent in our republic last year. Of course, this figure is not only based on losses themselves, but is a result of fraud from so-called "left" connections bypassing the power counter.

Ministry of Energy believes that the current price of 12 drams per KWt/h is too low, and does not allow proper renovation of the energy system. 87 per cent of this price are the cost of fuel, 1.9 per cent is used to pay the salaries of the employees in the system, and only a negligible part is used for renovation. Today the price for power is equal to 20 cents [currency not indicated] in Japan, 14 in the USA, 6 in Baltic countries, 5 in Germany, 4 in Russia, and 2.6 in Armenia. According to press service of the Ministry of Energy, this price will grow to 13.5 drams per KWt/h starting on 1 April.

Georgia

Georgia: Cooperation Treaty With Russia Ratified 'Unilaterally'

MM2201094496 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 96 p 9

[Report by Albert Kochetnikov: "Georgia Is First To Stretch Out Hand to Russia" — from the "Departmental Supplement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi — The Georgian parliament has unilaterally ratified the Treaty on Friendship, Good Neighborliness, and Cooperation With Russia. This document was signed 3 February 1994 during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Tbilisi. At that time he stated: "We have reached mutually advantageous, long-term decisions in the political, economic, and other spheres of collaboration."

Over 100 different Georgian-Russian agreements have been signed in the meantime in order to develop a framework treaty, but they have been left "up in the air": The basic document has still not been ratified.

The vast majority of the current members of parliament are supporters of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze, which explains the initiative to ratify the treaty with Russia. It is indicative that the ratification took place without a preliminary official agreement with Russia on a date for this procedure, as stipulated by international protocol laws.

Georgia: Opposition Criticizes Ratification of Treaty

LD1901172296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Jan 19 (Interfax) — Leader of the Georgian United Republican Party Nodar Natadze has criticized the Georgian parliament's ratification of the Georgian-Russian treaty on friendship, cooperation and good-neighborliness.

He described it as "an irresponsible step aimed against national interests."

"Russia is waging an undeclared war against Georgia. It was only because of the Russian authorities that Georgia temporarily lost Abkhazia and Southern Ossetia," Natadze told Interfax Friday.

The parliament's ratification of the treaty Thursday "will not change anything in relations with Russia, because the Russian parliament will not take the counter-step in the next two years," he said.

Natadze reminded Interfax that leaders of some Georgian opposition parties sent an appeal to the Georgian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

president and the parliament on January 11 to demand no ratification of the treaty and withdrawal of all Russian troops from Georgian territory.

Shevardnadze Releases Statement on CIS Summit Resolutions

LD1901155796 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Georgian 1455 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow [no date as received] — A meeting of the leaders of the CIS countries was held in Moscow today. The participants in the meeting passed resolutions on measures to settle the Abkhazian conflict and on the renewal of the mandate of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces.

In this connection, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has made a statement. The statement says that confirming their previous resolution on settling the Abkhazian conflict and rendering full support to Georgia's territorial integrity, the CIS countries will develop a common, consistent, and concerted course to curb separatism, which endangers peace within the CIS.

Shevardnadze's statement emphasizes that Abkhazia is Georgia's integral part. Each citizen residing in the region, as well as thousands of refugees forced to leave their homes, is an object of concern of the Georgian authorities regardless of his/her ethnic origin, rights, needs, and the participation in the conflict.

The statement says that the Georgian Government is prepared, within existing possibilities, to render help to the population of Abkhazia and allocate humanitarian and other types of aid that is being sent to Georgia. In Shevardnadze's words, none of the points of the resolutions passed at the CIS summit limits the rights of Georgia' citizens of any ethnic origin.

In conclusion, the statement says that aggressive separatism, which like a malignant tumor is destroying the integrity of many countries, is the primary source of the current disastrous situation.

Shevardnadze thanks Russian President Boris Yeltsin and each of his colleagues in the CIS council for efforts they make for restoring Georgia's territorial integrity and establishing peace in Abkhazia.

Shevardnadze Satisfied With Anti-Separatist Policy

LD2001131996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1216 GMT 20 Jan 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoriya]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 20 Jan — "The decisions made in Moscow develop the general consistent and agreed course of the Commonwealth of Independent States aimed at preventing separatism, which poses a threat to security and peace in our countries," Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said. The Georgian president's press service today circulated a statement in which he gives his assessment of the CIS Moscow summit.

Shevardnadze expressed satisfaction with the "unambiguous positions" defined in these decisions as well as confidence in the fact that these decisions would facilitate the settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia. The Georgian president expressed gratitude to Russian President Boris Yeltsin and all his CIS counterparts for their efforts aimed at the restoration of Georgia's territorial integrity.

All inhabitants of Abkhazia, irrespective of nationality, political preference, and also of their degree of involvement in the conflict are Georgian citizens, whose rights, needs, concerns, and requirements are just as important to the Georgian leadership as the plight of the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Abkhazia, "expelled from the places where historically they have always lived," the statement says. As far as possible and as far as its resources stretch, the Georgian Government will do what it can to help Abkhazia's inhabitants, the document says.

Shevardnadze found it necessary to state also that the measures to settle the conflict envisaged by the decisions of the Council of the Heads of CIS States are in no way aimed against the rights or the material or other position of the citizens of Georgia of various nationalities or citizens of any other Commonwealth state living in Abkhazia.

The Georgian president's statement notes that the source of the troubles and burdens of Abkhazia's inhabitants is rooted in "the Abkhaz leadership's aggressive separatism."

Georgia Foreign Minister on CIS Summit Resolutions

LD2101105396 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 21 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As we have already reported, a Georgian delegation led by President Eduard Shevardnadze, which participated in the CIS summit, returned from Moscow early this morning. In connection with this, Georgian Minister of Foreign Affairs Irakli Menagharishvili held a news conference today. Here is an interview with Irakli Menagharishvili conducted by our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] What decisions were taken at yesterday's important meeting regarding Georgia?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Menagharishvili] The decisions taken by the Council of the CIS Heads of State yesterday can be described as the most significant ones over the recent period of time. Primarily because it was the first clear-cut and concrete decision pertaining to the Abkhazian conflict. It was a logical development of the resolutions passed by the CIS heads of state first in Almaty and then in Minsk. However, those resolutions consisted only of considerations about the phenomenon of aggressive separatism and general conceptual approaches from the point of view of curbing this phenomenon. Concrete decisions on the concrete situation were taken for the first time only yesterday.

They are important for Georgia so far as they will have to enable us to get the process of negotiations, which was actually frozen last summer, started from the standstill. In addition, they have to enable us to exert pressure upon the separatist regime with regard to the return of refugees to Abkhazia, the definition of Abkhazia's status and the comprehensive political settlement of the conflict.

These decisions are of profound significance because they emphasize that Abkhazia is Georgia's integral part and that the leaders of the CIS regard Abkhazia only like this. A question may arise — well, Georgia's territorial integrity has repeatedly been recognized and confirmed bilaterally as well as multilaterally. This is true but this sharp and distinct wording of the issue displays the transformation of general sentiments which existed in the CIS states in respect of the conflict, the phenomenon and all the issues pertaining to Abkhazia. The radio listeners may be well aware that at the initial stage of the Abkhazian war and even later, we said that we were losing an information war. That is why both the latest UN resolution, which is known to our society, and this resolution are so significant.

However, it is not the assessments that make the decisions exceptionally significant but the concrete measures which, on one hand declares a complete embargo on military equipment and arms supply to Abkhazia from the CIS countries and on the other hand, it stipulates economic sanctions, that is, any economic action with regard to Abkhazia may be taken only at the Georgian government's permission.

Apart from this, the CIS leaders appealed to the UN to consent to the necessity of the measures and to call on other countries of the world to become part of the action. This is also a significant decision with regard to the geopolitical situation existing currently around Abkhazia.

The CIS heads of state have consented in principle to a proposal made by the Georgian delegation on the changes to be introduced to the mandate of the peacekeeping forces and instructed appropriate CIS structures to draft a new mandate on the basis of the Georgian proposition so that the issue of renewing the mandate might be decided after this. This is also an important achievement.

In short, yesterday's event can be regarded as the beginning of a new stage in settling this very painful conflict and doubtlessly as a step forward from the point of view of restoring Georgia's territorial integrity and securing peace in Georgia. [end recording]

Abkhazian Official Condemns CIS Decision on Sanctions

LD2001150596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1341 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 20 (Interfax) — Decisions made on January 19 by the heads of state of the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS, will work for the economic and political isolation of Abkhazia and can hardly contribute to the search for a non-violent solution to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, first deputy speaker of the Abkhazian parliament Stanislav Lakoba said Saturday in an interview with Interfax.

In Lakoba's view, the CIS heads of state may torpedo a negotiated settlement.

Russia, which mediates the search for a solution to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict, is now openly siding with Georgia, Lakoba told Interfax. Its present stand is unacceptable from the point of view of Abkhazia.

Decisions on the economic isolation of Abkhazia violate the Russian-Abkhazian agreement of October 20, 1995, which provides for the resumption of railroad communication via Abkhazian territory and leaves Armenia and Georgia in dire straits, Lakoba said.

Lakoba stressed that Abkhazia had moved to meet a Russian demand for the earliest resumption of railroad communication but "every time it agrees to compromise, Abkhazia faces the imposition of tougher sanctions." According to Lakoba, decisions made by the CIS heads of state are detrimental to the interests of the Abkhazians, in particular the Russian-speaking Abkhazians who suffer more than anyone else from the imposition of the economic blockade.

Lakoba accused the CIS heads of state of using force in a bid to make Abkhazia part of Georgia and dismissed as false all stories on drug-trafficking, illegal shipment of weapons and the use of Abkhazian territory by paramilitary groups.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Russian Commander Denies Chechen Training Camps in Abkhazia

LD2001114296 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1100 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gali, 20 Jan — Vasiliy Yakushev, commander of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict zone, said on 19 January that reports of training camps for Chechen militants in the Kodori gorge do not correspond with reality. An inspection he carried out has proved that there are no such camps in the Kodori gorge and no training of Chechen militants is being carried out there.

Basayev Reportedly Observed Crossing Into Abkhazia

LD1901223896 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 2030 GMT 19 Jan 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The ARGUMENTY I FAKTY-NOVOSTI news agency, citing information from the headquarters of Russian peacekeeping forces in the Abkhazian town of Gali, has reported that Georgian border guards observed a detachment of Chechen fighters numbering about 50 men and led by Shamil Basayev, the leader of last year's raid on Budennovsk, crossing into Abkhazian territory. The terrorist's wife and son reside there in the village of Lykhny. Incidentally the Abkhazian authorities deny the report.

Talks on Ossetia Underway in Norway

LD1901190796 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 19 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Talks have begun in Oslo, Norway, between the Georgian and Ossetian sides. The meeting has been arranged by the Norwegian Government. The talks are being held under a special program of Harvard University. The idea of organizing the meeting occurred to professor Roger Fisher, the director of the Harvard school of negotiations [as received], during his visit to Georgia. The Ossetian side is represented by Dirana Alborova, Dmitriy Medoyev, Konstantin Kochiyev, Kosta Zugayev and Leo Zugayev. The Georgian side is represented by Janri Kashia, Gogi Lazarishvili, Irina Sarishvili, the director of the Center for Studies of International Conflicts and the Strategy of Negotiations, professor Giorgi Khutsishvili and Zaal Kikodze.

The meeting will last until 20 January.

Shevardnadze Assesses Economic Prospects

AU1901152196 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 9 Jan 96 pp 1, 2

[Interview with President Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani for Georgian Radio in Tbilisi on 8 January: "Today, Georgia Is a Country That Is Recognized by the World and Has Embarked So Boldly on the Path of Democracy and Deep Economic Transformation"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Oniani] Last week, for the first time in the country's history, a New Year celebration was organized for children who are orphans and refugees. These children will probably soon return to Abkhazia and will hopefully not share the fate of the Sanaia family [whose six members were tortured to death by Abkhazian militants in Gali Rayon on 5 January]. In connection with this, you made a statement in which you gave a severe assessment of both the Russian peacekeeping forces and the foreign observers. Would you like to add something to your comment?

[Shevardnadze] Perhaps just a few words. Regarding the tragedy that occurred in Gali, I would like to state once again that all this amounts to playing with fire. This is a provocative and barbaric act by certain forces aimed at wrecking the peace process. Georgia will have its say at the meeting of heads of CIS states in Moscow [on 19 January]. The CIS, in particular Russia, and the UN possess all the levers, I repeat all the levers, to settle the Abkhazian conflict. One thing should be made clear to everyone participating in this process: The separatists, who are seeking to legitimize the genocide and ethnic cleaning of hundreds of thousands of people, will not agree to the restoration of justice through entreaties, that is to say only through negotiations and political dialogue. A combination of political and forceful methods is the only way to restore peace in this most sensitive region in the Caucasus and ensure the return of the tormented and unfortunate people to their native land. It is patently clear from the example of Bosnia how mankind should combine political and forceful methods if it wants peace.

Peace in Abkhazia will bring good to the whole of the Caucasus, Russia, our neighbor Turkey, and other neighbors, if only because vitally important communication routes, the rail line, and highways will be restored, which, naturally, will be a very great stimulus for the economic regeneration of the whole region. [passage omitted]

[Oniani] During the last year and a half, we have traditionally started with this subject but, for some

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

reason, it is now our last item — last week's economic news.

[Shevardnadze] Our economy is faced with serious, complex, and large-scale tasks in 1996. As you know, according to the president's economic program, this year should see the restoration of production, a perceptible increase in economic growth — I calculate it at 15-20 percent — and a noticeable improvement in the population's well-being. The basis for this was formed last year. Inflation, which was one of the major factors behind the decline of the economy and the impoverishment of the population over the last few years, has been reduced. As we say here, it has been checked and what has become the classic example of monetary reform, the stable exchange rate of the lari, has been recognized at the international level. The sessions of the interbank currency exchange on Thursday and Friday confirm this fact: The exchange rate of the lari against the dollar remains at 1.23. The strengthening of the monetary system is creating the basis for qualitatively new approaches in the budgetary sphere as well.

The cornerstone of the country's economic policy will be the budget for 1996. The government has devoted several days of fairly intensive, substantive, and successful work to discussion of the draft budget. The day before yesterday, we were working almost the entire day and we still need several more meetings. The session was presided over by the president and the parameters of the budget and its principal characteristics still need to be discussed. However, one can say today that this year's budget will continue the course of reform and it will be an important stage in the implementation of the president's program. The new budget, which strengthens reforms, is a reform-minded budget. This is the general assessment. The draft envisages the combination of the central and local budgets, an increase in personal income, an increase in the efficiency of expenditure, the strengthening of taxation and financial discipline, and the formation of a competitive economic environment in terms of taxation for all entrepreneurs, who will have equal rights. It provides for an increase in funds for the social sphere on the basis of our potential and a sharp rise in individual tax and non-tax revenue (this is particularly important). Specifically, if, in 1995, according to preliminary estimates, revenue amounted to 5.2 percent of the country's GDP, including 3.7 percent for tax revenues, these figures will rise to 8.5 and 6.7 percent respectively [in 1996].

The results achieved last year in the taxation sphere form the basis for overcoming such complex tasks (we have become accustomed to general figures, but they are very impressive and give us hope). During 1995, the overall revenue for the state budget amounted to 216 million lari, which exceeds the 1994 level by a factor of 3.5. I do not think there are any other countries that have these results. The taxes collected by the taxation body last year exceed the figure for the preceding year by a factor of 2.5. The customs department also collected revenue at a rapid rate and contributed the equivalent of 9 million lari in various currencies to the budget in the course of the year, which is several times more than the figure for the preceding year. However, this figure still lags behind the potential that exists in this sphere. We believe that revenue from this sphere should increase several times this year.

According to an assessment made by the Ministry of Economy, the drop in GDP was halted in 1995 and there was even a certain increase in some subbranches and complexes. As I have already said several times before, this concerns machine-building, light industry, and certain other branches. This halt is the basis that will enable us to increase our economic potential by 15-20 percent this year.

The results in agriculture are even more significant. According to figures supplied by the Ministry of Economy for 1995, the production of grain crops, including corn, increased by 15 percent (as a minimum). The production of grapes and fruit rose by 16 and 8 percent respectively. In addition to an increase in the livestock population, there was an increase in the production of meat and milk. Incidentally, the prices of meat and milk and milk products would have been much lower had the delivery of these products been better organized and assistance provided to the people who want to bring these goods to the capital and other industrial centers. This question should become the subject of special discussion.

The advance of agriculture will become irreversible when Parliament passes the law on land reform. This should happen in the near future. Several variants of the law have been prepared and I believe Parliament will return to discussing and regulating what is one of the most cardinal problems in the next few days. The fate of the Georgian economy will be largely determined by transport. We have already spoken on several occasions about signs of improvement in the situation on the railroads. There are indeed pleasing shifts here. At the same time, in assessing 1995, we cannot fail to mention that Georgia is being increasingly singled out as a transit country, particularly following the resolution of the question concerning the shipment of early oil from the Caspian Sea. 1996 will already bring real results on the path toward the realization of what is indeed the project of the century.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Significant prospects for reviving production should be created in the process of privatization and shareholding. Up to 2,500 small enterprises had been privatized at the beginning of 1995 and 6,500 by the end of the year. As regards medium and large enterprises, the controlling interest of 150 of 840 joint-stock companies have already been bought out. This number will shortly rise to 200. The speeding up of this process is being facilitated by the increased use of privatization vouchers. Up to now, 3,250,000 people, or almost 75 percent of the population, have received vouchers (incidentally, it is vexing that this very important phenomenon continues to receive inadequate attention and our commentators fail to notice it).

The implementation of our big and small plans depends to a decisive degree on electricity. Last year, for the first time in several years, the amount of electricity produced was maintained at the level of 7 billion kwh. At the same time, there was a 25-percent increase in the amount of electricity produced at hydroelectric power stations. Serious restoration and repair work was carried out at the Tbilisi State Rayon Power Station. In spite of obstacles, the matter has almost been seen through to the end and this gives us the chance to make a comparatively normal start in industry, and not only industry, this year. Moreover, with help from our friends the United States and the EU, opportunities have been found to obtain fuel. Very many things need to be done to ensure that the country has a stable supply of energy. However, if the limits on the consumption of electricity are enforced and there is an improvement in payments for the electricity consumed, it is possible that we will get through the winter more or less satisfactorily.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about the energy crisis. Payment for electricity consumed (this can already be safely said today) is the key to overcoming the energy crisis. Sakenergo [the Georgian Energy Authority] has been brought to the verge of bankruptcy. The point I wish to make in mentioning this is that every citizen of Georgia, every entrepreneur, and every director should understand that we will have electricity, provided that we manage to pay for whatever we consume. The capacities that were brought into operation last year and what we are doing this year (we will probably set about restoring the capacity of the 10th bloc) makes this wholly possible. It is necessary for everyone to become involved in this process. Sakenergo is today owed almost 100 million lari. If Sakenergo had this sum today, we could successfully carry out all restoration work, bring additional capacities into operation before next winter, and start to acquire fuel so that we do not waste time on this next year.

Therefore, all government structures and our press and television should devote special programs and columns to the solution of this problem, which is of vital and decisive importance for the state.

Georgia: Former Security Chief's Links With Mafia Confirmed

AU2001172296 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 9 Jan 96 p 1

["Statement by the Board of the Georgian Ministry of State Security (Published in Abridged Form)" issued in Tbilisi on 29 December 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 26 June 1995, the board of the former Georgian Security Service made a statement in which it viewed as unacceptable the critical attitude of the authorities and the public toward this service and, in the event of such an attitude continuing, threatened to use its right to take lawful measures with the aid of armed formations.

The subsequent development of events exposed the real author of this irresponsible statement: It was the personal statement of Igor Giorgadze. The head of the special service, nicknamed "the commander," threatened to take "lawful measures." Following the terrorist act [assassination attempt against Shevardnadze] on 29 August, it became clear what was meant by "lawful measures": illegal commercial activity, close contact with the mafia and "Mkhedrioni" [former paramilitary organization], a series of terrorist acts, and, finally, the organization of a state coup by liquidating the head of state. As has been confirmed by the investigation, Igor Giorgadze was carrying out the direct orders of the mafia.

Under Igor Giorgadze's leadership, the State Security Service ignored the operational service, anarchy and chaos reigned in financial and economic activities, and elementary requirements governing financial accounting were not observed.

The financial machinations that took place in the Security Service, in particular, illegal commercial activity connected with gasoline, have now already been exposed. The gasoline that the State Security Service received from Azerbaijan was resold in a neighboring state. The broker, whose role was played by the special service, along with concealing revenue from the state, created a hotbed of political complications. On the basis of checks carried out into the activities of the Security Service during this period, the Georgian Chamber of Control obliged the special service to pay 1,203,850 lari into the state budget. However, this sum does not compare with the sums transferred to separate accounts

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

held with the English "Lloyds Bank" and the "Credit Suisse Bank."

In connection with the cooperation of the special service with the gasoline and cigarette mafias, criminal proceedings have been instigated for the large-scale misappropriation of state property. Mirianishvili, the former head of the economic department of the Security Service and Igor Giorgadze's "right hand," has been arrested.

In accordance with an order issued by the Georgian minister of state security, an inventory of material valuables and weapons and a documentary audit are being carried out. The operational-investigation group, along with the Georgian Procurator's Office, will thoroughly investigate the financial and economic activities of the former Security Service.

The board of the Georgian Ministry of State Security is empowered to state that the special service will improve itself in the shortest period of time and become the genuine guarantor of the security of the president, the authorities, and the population of Georgia.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lithuania

Lithuanian Seimas Supports Russia's Bid To Join Council of Europe

LD1801233796 Mosow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1649 GMT 18 Jan 96

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vilnius, 18 Jan — Lithuania's Seimas adopted by a unanimous vote today a special statement in support for Russia's bid to join the Council of Europe [CE] and expressed the hope that "the Russian Federation will adhere to all the obligations set by the CE for every state that wishes to join this international organization."

At the same time the Lithuanian delegation at the CE was instructed to express the wish during the discussion on Russia's admittance to the CE that "the Russian Federation assume additional commitments to refrain from threats or use of force against other peoples and states."

The Seimas statement also says that "Russia must start settling economic and financial disputes with Lithuania and other CE members as soon as possible."

It was recommended that Russia "should settle the Chechen problem through peaceful dialogue in line with the principles of the CE convention on human rights and taking into account every nation's right to self-determination."

President Brazauskas Addresses Baltic Symposium in Kiel

WS1901100096 Vilnius ELTA in English 1746 GMT 18 Jan 96

[From "News Bulletin" No. 929]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, January 18, ELTA — Speaking at the international symposium "Future of the Baltic sea states: perspectives for Europe" in the German seaport of Kiel Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said that "the European Associate agreements signed by Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia created a new geopolitical situation in the Baltic sea region. Lithuania was not straining to Europe neither with the stretched hand, nor with the full basket of problems", he said.

The forum marked the solemn celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Industry and Trade Chamber of the Schleswig-Holstein Land.

Lithuanian President said that it would be very useful to have the special conference about co-operation of the Baltic sea states organized on the initiative of the European Union (EU).

Brazauskas stressed that he was an active supporter of such co-operation, adding that the Baltic sea region was unique in its importance and possibilities — as there was no other sea in the World uniting important states, which had beloged to the hostile blocks in the past, as well as, the neutral countries.

President Brazauskas also spoke about the recent problems in the banking system in Lithuania, adding that "strict actions were taken in order to overcome the negative tendencies" with the help of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Lithuanian state leader stated that, basically, the state was maintaining the balanced budget and was finnishing privatization.

The symposium was attended by about 1 500 participants. Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Presidents Algirdas Brazauskas, Guntis Ulmanis and Lennart Meri met German President Roman Herzog and leaders of the Schleswig-Holstein Land.

Lithuania: Interior Minister Submits Resignation

LD2001120096 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 20 Jan 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius told President Algirdas Brazauskas on Friday that he had received a letter of resignation from Interior Minister Romasis Vaitiekunas, the LIETUVOS RYTAS daily reported today, quoting the Baltic News Service.

According to the newspaper, Slezevicius reported the news to the president at Vilnius airport when the president arrived from Germany. Brazauskas went to Germany to take part in the celebrations of the 125th anniversary of the Schleswig-Holstein chamber of trade and industry.

According to LIETUVOSS RYTAS, yesterday candidates for the post of interior minister were already being discussed, among them Laucius, chief prosecutor of Klaipeda district and Vytautas Juskus, chairman of the Lithuanian Seimas commission for economic crimes.

At the meeting with the president on Tuesday [16 January] Vaitiekunas pledged to hand in his resignation to Prime Minister Slezevicius. However, later in an interview to Lithuanian radio on Wednesday the interior minister said that he had asked the president to receive him and that this was not done to discuss his resignation. [passage omitted]

Vaitiekunas, 52, held the post of interior minister since the end of 1992. Recently he was criticized for withdrawing his personal deposit at the Lithuanian Joint-Stock Innovation Bank on the eve of suspension of the bank's activities. Apart from this, some bankers and politicians believe that the actions of the Interior Ministry supporting Vytautas Preidys, chairman of the Litimpeks bank board of directors become the reason for suspension of the bank's activity.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.